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With pomp, piety and a party, young and old join in joy of VE-Day



The Prince and Princess of Wales, with their sons, on a rare family outing to Hyde Park, where they took part in the VE Day anniversary celebrations yesterday

Nations united in peace

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND JOHN YOUNG

THE greatest assembly of world leaders seen in London since the Coronation yesterday commemorated the end of the Second World War with a service of thanksgiving, remembrance and hope in St Paul's Cathedral, once a potent symbol of defiance against the destruction of all-out conflict.

Fifteen members of the Royal Family led by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and the Prince and Princess of Wales, were among the congregation of 2,200 that filled Wren's majestic and brilliantly lit interior for an occasion the like of which has not been seen before.

In contrast to the smoke and fire that threatened to engulf it in 1940, England's greatest post-reformation church blazed with sunlight and pageantry.

A few hours later, the Queen and her husband led a symbolic and striking procession of heads of state to a giant globe containing an eternal flame and book of remembrance in Hyde Park. The procession, in which visiting monarchs and presidents walked hand-in-hand with groups of children dressed in white, was the climax of a spectacular ceremony of peace and reconciliation.

Pomp blended with informality, youth with age, recollections of war with thanks that the world has

survived for half a century without catastrophe on a similar scale.

Just after 3.30pm, a storm of applause and surely one of the mightiest renditions of the National Anthem ever heard greeted the royal couple as they entered the royal box facing the amphitheatre specially created for the occasion.

They had been preceded by the heads of state whom they had entertained to lunch at Buckingham

Palace and by members of their family, including the Prince of Wales, his estranged wife and their children, Prince Edward, and the Princess Royal and her husband, Commander Timothy Laurence. Afterwards world leaders more used to limousine travel were shepherded aboard coaches for the short drive to Hyde Park.

For the cathedral service, representatives of 54 nations sat cheek by jowl united, whatever their religion, in a

largely traditional Anglican service with familiar English hymns and a sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

President Herzog and Helmut Kohl of Germany sat prominently in the front row, the bulky Chancellor happy to kneel to his devotions while others merely sat.

The Havel of the Czech Republic sat with the Gores of the United States; leaders of the fragmented constituents of what was once the Soviet Union filled the best part of an entire row, while Dr Franjo Tudjman, president of Croatia, found himself once more a controversial presence. There were Bosnians and Slovenes — reminders that Europe is a continent still not free of war — but not Serbs; not even yesterday's spirit of reconciliation could accommodate a country unrecognised by Britain and the subject of UN sanctions.

At least two of the heads of state could easily have sat at the rear of the cathedral among a great gathering of medalled veterans; Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg landed with the Allies in Normandy and President Weizman of Israel was an RAF fighter pilot.

There were decorations, too, on the breasts of Lords Hesley and Callaghan and Sir Edward Heath. Those of John Major and Tony Blair, too young to have fought in a war, were inevitably bare of ornament, but Baroness Thatcher sported her Order of Merit.

The Queen Mother, the greatest living historical link with the war years, looked frail but determined under a large, green hat, leaning heavily on a stick and taking the Prince of Wales's arm as she walked to her seat directly below the pulpit.

Dr Carey paid tribute to her, saying: "The spirit of the time was splendidly typified by his late Majesty King George VI and Her Majesty the Queen Mother as they identified themselves so completely with the



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Queen at the VE-Day thanksgiving service in St Paul's Cathedral yesterday



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people in their struggle." But 50 years was a long time, he observed. "Memories grow dim, new generations are born who have never known the horror of world war. Even those of us who experienced something of those momentous days can easily forget the depth of the terror and the bondage which afflicted so many before the liberation of 1945. Yet for the sake of all our futures we must recall the past."

Where the cathedral service had

Continued on page 2, col 6

Gaullists open champagne as Chirac finally wins presidency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC, the Gaullist candidate, was elected President of France yesterday, defeating Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, by a comfortable margin of at least 4 per cent, according to television estimates.

Champagne celebrations erupted outside the Gaullist campaign headquarters and at the City Hall when news broke that the man who has been Mayor of Paris for the past 18 years had been chosen as the fifth President of France's fifth republic.

In warm late evening sunshine, car horns blared across central Paris and several thousand people swarmed to a public party on the Place de la Concorde organised by the Gaullists. As President-elect, M Chirac, 62, will stand beside President Mitterrand at today's VE-Day parade on the Champs Elysees.

In a brief speech only 35 minutes after the close of the polls and well before counting was complete, M Jospin said he accepted that a majority had picked his opponent. "I congratulate him on his election as President of the Republic and I wish him good luck."

The Socialist's rapid and graceful concession was hailed by the political world as a break with the bitter rivalries that had marked the five previous presidential votes.

M Chirac's victory, won on a promise to cure unemployment and social crisis with radical but vaguely detailed reforms, puts a Gaullist back in the Elysee Palace for the first time since President Pompidou died in 1974. The election marks a sweet triumph for a man who had fought for two decades to win the job and had failed in two previous elections. Until his sudden comeback last February, the Gaullist leader had been writ-



Chirac voting in Sarraon, central France, yesterday

were spoiled testified to the widespread discontent with the mainstream candidates.

"An immense hope has been born," said Alain Madelin, a leading supporter of the Gaullist. "M Chirac must now work to cross the old gulf between left and right." Alain Juppé, who is likely to be M Chirac's choice for Prime Minister, paid tribute to the "courage and tenacity" of his leader.

"I am above all happy France Jacques Chirac with the President of all French," he said. "We about rallying all th-

Gaullist champagne
Leading

World Cup squad supports Carling

By PETER BILLS

ALL 25 members of England's rugby union World Cup squad called last night for the reinstatement of Will Carling as captain. There were signs of a possible compromise in the row over his dismissal. Den-

nis Easby, president of the Rugby Football Union, agreed to meet Carling, probably tonight, to discuss his future.

The statement from Carling's team-mates said: "The full England World Cup squad respectfully request that the officers of the Rugby Football Union reconsider the decision to dismiss Will Carling. We hope this matter can be resolved speedily in order that we may concentrate on preparing for the World Cup without any further disruption."

Mr Easby last night described the statement as "very reasonable" and Carling said: "I am touched by the support."

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Simon Barnes, page 23

TESTPLAN

Tests for 11-year-olds, resisted by teachers and reduced to a dry run last year, will finally be taken by the whole age group next week. John O'Leary looks at the background to the tests and allays fears that they amount to a thinly-disguised return to the 11-plus.

Also, Ben Preston looks at the special extension papers that are set for exceptionally bright children at ages 11 and 14. Page 37

Times passport to Britain's treasures

Readers can obtain exclusive discounts at 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales this summer with The Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain.

Sites include monuments, abbeys, castles, palaces, stately homes and country parks. Details and today's token appear on page 35.

Clarke's credibility faces sterling test

By JANET BUSH AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH CLARKE'S credibility will be severely tested this week as sterling comes under pressure from financial markets suspicious that the decision to leave interest rates unchanged was politically motivated.

All the signs are that the Chancellor defied the advice of the Bank of England in vetoing a rate rise, and the Bank's subsequent studious silence left sterling exposed as currency markets opened early today in the Far East.

The pound fell to a new low on Friday amid City speculation that the Conservatives' unprecedented hammering in the local elections had undermined the Chancellor's determination to combat inflation. Ian Harpell, the chief economist at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, said: "Up

until now, the Chancellor had done everything right. Now there are suspicions that the build-up to the election has already begun and the first casualty has been monetary policy."

Yesterday, Mr Clarke sought to head off a run on the pound by emphasising the depth of his commitment to fighting inflation and his determination not to be swayed by political events. "Whatever I do in running this economy, I must not shrink from the tough decisions," he said. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said Labour would be "watching like a hawk" to see whether interest rates were being set on political grounds.

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Peter Riddell, page 16

Cold winds blow away heatwave

By TIM JONES

THE heatwave will end with a sharp drop in temperatures today, offering relief to thousands who suffer from asthma, bronchitis and other breathing-related difficulties.

Temperatures which have reached 27C (81F) in London and the South will fall dramatically to a seasonal norm of 15C (59F) by midweek, while the soup of polluted air which has hung over most of Britain will be cleared by colder winds from the north Atlantic. There could be frost in isolated hollows and snow on high ground in Scotland.

In a move to decrease pollution, Dr Brian Mawhinney, Transport Secretary, will this month impose a maximum speed limit of 50mph on part of the M25.

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TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

FASHION

Short cuts to style: the new summer coat

PLUS: Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren, Brenda Maddox on Media, and the Property pages



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

POP

The best of the new albums and singles

PLUS: the Valerie Grove interview, Bernard Levin, Philip Howard, Clementine on sports and the Internet

SATURDAY

HOUSE STYLE

How Boy George brought harmony to the home

PLUS: Weekend: when your passport to the treasure is Car 95: summer travel guide And: Weekend Money: the 7-day TV and radio guide



THE TIMES AT 20p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

Carey addresses world leaders in St Paul's, symbol of hope

'Our duty is to seek way of peace'

BY ALAN HAMILTON

A CONGREGATION of 2,200, led by the Queen, 14 members of the Royal Family and representatives of more than 50 nations, filled St Paul's Cathedral in London yesterday for a largely traditional Anglican service with familiar English hymns and a sermon by Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

They formed a remarkably diverse and sometimes unlikely set of bedfellows. All were supposedly equal, the qualification for attendance being that their country contributed at brigade strength or above to the European theatre, or that their territory saw war. Prominently absent was President Mitterrand of France, who is in poor health. He restricted his day's programme to the Queen's lunch at Buckingham

Palace, and sent the President of the French Senate to represent him in church. In his sermon, Dr Carey recalled that on May 8, 1945, more than 30,000 people had attended nine services in St Paul's. Its magnificent dome, standing high above the fires of the Blitz, had been a symbol of hope, freedom and faith for millions. The Archbishop quoted the words of Bishop Bell in 1941, who described the conflict then engulfing much of the Earth as "a war between God and the spirit of evil for the possession of the soul of Europe and of the world".

Behind the stark statistic of 50 million dead were stories of the individuals who found themselves caught up in a conflict not of their making. "They included each of the



Carey: recalled May 1945

mainly beaches, of North Africa and the Far East, and so the list could go on. "War and injustice remained a part of the life of our world. Whether as political or religious leaders it is our duty to continue to seek the way of peace for this and future generations," Dr Carey said.

He ended with a recollection that the firewatchers who had nightly handled incendiary devices on the roof of St Paul's had been a motley collection of Britons, Americans, Dutchmen and Czechs. Thanks to their efforts, not only did the dome still stand, but so too did the freedoms and the spiritual aspirations we cherished so dearly.

A lunch for 54 world leaders was hosted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in John Nash's magnificent gold and white ballroom, largest of the

state apartments built for the extravagant George IV, and in its workaday role the setting for investitures.

Guests sat around 15 circular tables, each one hosted by a member of the Royal Family, who were on duty in greater force yesterday than at any time since last year's D-Day commemorations.

The lunch menu was carefully contrived to avoid dietary offence to a guest list drawn from all manner of creeds and nations. It began with *Oeufs de Cailles Princesse*, quails' eggs on a salad base of asparagus, artichoke and French beans, and moved on to *Feuilletage de Flétan et Saumon*, a fillet of halibut interleaved with salmon steamed and served with a herb sauce. For dessert, there was an iced lemon parfait served with a raspberry coulis.

Nations unite in day of peace

Continued from page 1

been solemn and spiritual, the Hyde Park ceremony owed more to showbusiness.

Eleven of Britain's most famous choirs, a huge children's chorus and the National Youth Ballet joined the European Youth Orchestra, trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music, pipes and drums of the First Royal Tank Regiment and the First Battalion Scots Guards, and the combined bands of the Grenadier and Welsh Guards, the Royal Air Force Regiment, and the Royal Marines School of Music.

The actor Sir Ian McKellan introduced Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for The Common Man*, after which Patricia Hodge read from the Bible: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. And none shall make them afraid, neither shall the sword go through their land."

The sun shone from virtually cloudless skies as thousands of veterans and their families, including American and Canadian war brides, watched from the stands. In all directions the park was an ocean of bodies. The estimated total attendance was 150,000, and temperatures reaching 80°F meant that some 450 people had to be treated by the St John Ambulance corps for heat-related illnesses.

After a medley of British tunes, including *The London-derry Air* and a rousing version of *The Road to the Isles*, dancers of the National Youth Ballet performed the *Polovian Dances* from *Prince Igor*.

Sir Ian read Whitman's poem, *Rationalization*, and Miss Hodge quoted the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon. The two readings were interspersed by the *Gods of Joy* chorale from the *Mass* movement of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, now adopted by the European Community as its anthem.

Then came the remarkable sight of the children walking up to the box to take the world's leaders by the hand and lead them out in front of the crowd. When they reached the huge globe, they were offered flowers and each was invited to sign an olive leaf to be placed inside in a gesture of peace and reconciliation.

Then came a mighty fanfare from the orchestra and trumpets and the release of a flight of London pigeons, doing duty for the doves which had failed to learn their part during rehearsals. As the globe revolved slowly, hundreds of white balloons floated up into the blue sky.

On her way back to the box, the Queen stopped to talk to veterans and children, while the band played Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No 4*, his *Nimrod* variation and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Her distinguished guests made their way back to their own countries. It will be a long time - if ever - before such a disparate gathering is seen in London again.

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Arson attack on German synagogue

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HOURS before Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, flew from the remembrance ceremony in London to Berlin for the reopening of the city's main synagogue, Lübeck synagogue in northern Germany was firebombed. Neo-Nazis, who targeted the same synagogue in March last year, were again suspected.

German ministers, plainly embarrassed by an anti-Semitic arson attack on the eve of commemorations of the end of the war, promised that the culprits would be tracked down and punished with the full force of the law.

Herr Kohl and President Herzog last night stood at the rebuilt Berlin synagogue, among hundreds of returning Jewish refugees and survivors of the Holocaust, to pay tribute to Jewish victims of the Nazis. Dense security cordons were set up around the synagogue, originally built in 1866. Four far-right-wingers were jailed for up to four-and-a-half years for the 1994 attack on the Lübeck synagogue. Yesterday's attack seems to have been timed to mark Germany's VE-Day commemorations.

President Mitterrand, John Major and Vice-President Gore are to join Herr Kohl in Berlin this evening to commemorate the end of the war. The German leader was to deliver a sensitive speech in which he would pay tribute to Germany's victims but also try to redirect attention to Germany's future. The week-end synagogue attack in Lübeck will make that task more difficult, revealing fears about the German far right.

Thousands of citizens gathered outside the charred synagogue yesterday to express solidarity and sympathy with the 27-strong Jewish community. Nobody was hurt in the attack. The Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Heide Simonis, said: "Anyone who is capable of such an act after seeing over recent days graphic pictures of the war and the concentration camps must be particularly brutal."

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Oscar Wilde.

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laboratory conditions from synthetic sapphire, is a virtually unscratchable polished crystal whose attachment using a zytel washer completes the waterproof seal.

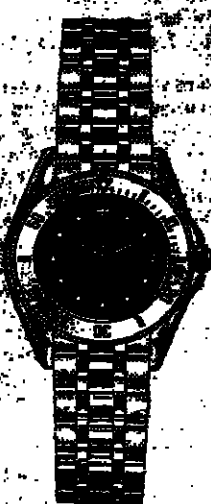
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Reject culture of war, urges Pope

Vatican City: The Pope appealed to mankind never to forget the lessons of the Second World War. Addressing thousands of pilgrims and tourists in St Peter's Square yesterday, he declared: "War never again," repeating a phrase made famous by Pope Paul VI in an address to the United Nations in 1964.

Pope John Paul announced that he had written a letter addressed to "all men of goodwill" which would be released in the next few days. The Pontiff, 74, who lived through the Nazi occupation of his native Poland, said that the letter would emphasise that a just society could not be based on violence and weapons. "Thinking of the terrible six years of the last world war, humanity must reflect on its dramatic consequences," he said. "Peace is our mission."

"The terrible page of history of the Second World War is a warning for everyone to reject the culture of war and to seek every legitimate and opportune means to seek an end to conflicts that still bloody many regions of the world."

Poles remain divided

Warsaw: Poles recalled the end of the war with mixed emotions, reflecting a widespread feeling that the nation's sufferings did not end with the defeat of Nazi Germany. At ceremonies across the country divisions were clear between Poles who viewed the presence of Soviet forces in 1945 primarily as a liberation and those who saw Moscow's victory as the replacement of one foreign oppressor by another. In some cases, soldiers who served in Polish forces under Soviet control held separate ceremonies from those who fought in formations commanded from London.

Stalin's role praised

Moscow: The Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, paid tribute to Stalin for his role in the defeat of Nazi Germany at a ceremony in the Georgian capital Tbilisi. "Stalin had many faults but no one can diminish the role he played in the Great Patriotic War," the Georgian news agency, Iprinda, quoted Mr Shevardnadze as saying. "Little Georgia sent 700,000 men to war, 300,000 of whom never saw their homeland again," he said. Mr Shevardnadze, a former Soviet Foreign Minister, also praised the Russian people for their heroism in the war.

Canadians remembered

Groesbeck: More than 6,000 Canadian veterans paid homage on Saturday to Canadian troops killed during the liberation of The Netherlands. The veterans sat silently in the sun while Jean Chretien, the Canadian Prime Minister, and Wim Kok, the Dutch Premier, led the remembrance service at the Canadian military cemetery in this Dutch town. Mr Kok thanked the veterans "from the depths of my heart" and added: "Good friends are crucial in the international effort for freedom, human rights and democracy." The ceremony will be repeated today.

Wiesenthal returns

Mauthausen: Simon Wiesenthal, right, the Nazi-hunter, joined Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, to commemorate the liberation by US troops of the death camp in Austria where he was an inmate. Survivors laid wreaths to more than 100,000 people - Jews, political opponents of Nazism, prisoners of war, gypsies and homosexuals - killed in Mauthausen by starvation, injection or in gas chambers.



Envoy recalls liberation

Pilsen: Madeleine Albright, US Ambassador to the UN, paid tribute to the American soldiers who ended the Nazi occupation of the brewery city of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. The ambassador, who 50 years ago as Magda Korbelova listened on a radio in Prague to the liberation of western Czechoslovakia, told thousands gathered in Pilsen's main square: "I remember my parents cheering and wishing they had gone further." The American troops were ordered to stop at Pilsen, one of the last major cities they liberated, and wait for Soviet troops advancing from the east.

Belgian king's homage

Brussels: King Albert and Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, paid homage to victims of the concentration camp at Fort Breendonk, near Antwerp. More than 3,000 prisoners are known to have passed through the concrete fort, which was used by the Gestapo for those destined for deportation to other camps. It witnessed 186 recorded executions by shooting or hanging. Since 1947, Breendonk has been a national memorial with a museum. The king also attended a ceremony at a barracks in Mechelen, north of Brussels, that was used to deport Jews to Auschwitz.

Young and old unite in colourful remembrance

BY JOHN YOUNG

HYDE PARK resembled a giant village fair yesterday. Tens of thousands of people wandered among the tents and stands and picnicked on the grass. Veterans, blazers and bemedalled, mingled with children and tourists.

There were flags, bunting and a giant air-raid shelter; vintage military vehicles, fire engines and aircraft; dance and drama; marching bands; and stands where veterans' charities reminded the crowds that the old and the wounded were still paying a price.

Harry Keeble, who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, said the commemora-

tions had been essential: many children had come up to ask questions, and had known little or nothing about the war. The Normandy Veterans' Association had recently been asked to send people to schools to explain what had happened.

Mr Keeble recalled receiving news of the end of the war while in action in Germany: "We had just taken over a munitions factory and we were using it as a small hospital for people with serious injuries. We heard the news on the radio and we all drank whatever beer we had left. I returned to England in July because it was thought we

would be needed in the Far East but then the war ended there as well and instead I was sent to Malta for the next 14 months."

Frank Russell was serving in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and had just moved out of Hamburg when he heard news of the surrender on the radio. "I remember I got terribly drunk, fell over and cut my head, and woke to find an elderly German lady bathing the wound."

William Butler was employed in a REME workshop on the River Po in Italy when the war ended. He said: "They gave us two days off and we all hitch-hiked back to the village where we had made a lot of friends. There were no pubs or cafes, but they took us into their houses. It is lovely being here and has brought back so many memories."

His wife, Kathleen, served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. The couple met in 1942 but did not marry until 1947. "I enjoyed every minute of the war," she said. "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Adrian Marchant was visiting the event with his wife and baby son, his sister and her son and daughter. "We came here because it's something we will never see again," he said. Asked what he knew of the war, his nephew, David Gregory, eight, said: "It was when the Nazis bombed Europe."

Lying on the grass near by were three young German women, Eva Gose, Claudia Jonck and Hilke Carstensen, who are au pairs in Surrey. Fraulien Gose said: "We came mainly to see the Queen and also to celebrate." Asked why Germans should be celebrating, she said that in the end the Allied victory had been for the best. "But I think it is a good idea to remember those who died and were wounded from all countries," Fraulien Carstensen said.

Susan Camplin, 12, said: "I think everything here is very good. It is a time to remember and also to celebrate 50 years of peace." She had been taught about the Holocaust at primary school and thought it should never be forgotten.

Joy Cartwright, also 12, said she had learnt at school about evacuees and the Blitz. "Young people should be made more aware of what people went through in those years."

Today's lunchtime crowds in The Mall will relive the moment on May 8, 1945, when the Royal Family stood on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Led by Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Harry Secombe, Cliff Richard and others, they will join in with songs that will evoke countless memories for the older generation.

Dame Vera will take part in the commemorations for a third time this evening. At the party and concert in Hyde Park, she will sing *When the Lights Go On Again* and *All Over the World*.

Veterans take last chance to search for lost comrades

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN ARMY of old warriors gathered in Hyde Park for what could be their last Hurlah yesterday. In case they fail to muster for a 60th anniversary celebration of VE-Day, many flocked to the Veterans' Tent in a last attempt to renew acquaintance with comrades lost but not forgotten.

Veteran Link, the BT computer service designed to enable old soldiers to make Dame Vera Lynn's words come true, attracted battalions of men and women hoping to meet again with old comrades.

Harry Bentley, 69, from Mordialloc, Victoria, Australia, flew 28 missions as an air gunner with 467 squadron (RAAF), serving in RAF Bomber Command at Botesford and Waddington. Long after it was all over, he became state manager in Victoria for the German organisation, ADS Data Systems, based at Bielefeld. He said: "The president of the company used to say that 'Herr Bentley is, of course, the only member of staff who used to bomb the factory'."

Mr Bentley, who joined up in 1942 at the age of 17, is back in Britain for his third trip to commemorate those days of darkness and glory. "He's

probably dead now, but this time I want to trace Hugh Levy," he said. Flight Engineer near Levy, of the Rhodesian Air Force, ten years his senior and an old comrade in Bomber Command, went home to Africa and Mr Bentley has not seen him since 1944. "I have often wondered about him for 50 years now," Mr Bentley said. "He was a very fine, friendly, quiet man; a great bloke."

The huge commemoration at Hyde Park, which is keeping a fond eye on the past, also looks to the future with a degree of apprehension. Arthur Bennett, 81, from Guildford, Surrey, said: "The only reason I have come with my medals pinned to my chest is to encourage and remind the younger generation to do the same as what we fought for."

The former Royal Artillery veteran, who served at Dunkirk and landed at Arromanches on D-Day+2, added: "Since we came home in 1945... we have lost our manufacturing industries, jobs and some pride."

"That is not what we fought for. We have to get back our sense of responsibility, loyalty, duty and the sense of King and Queen."



Arthur Bennett, left, and Harry Bentley were among those frequenting the Veterans' Tent

Dame Vera fears new generation's ignorance of war

BY CATHERINE MILTON

DAME VERA LYNN said yesterday that young adults who knew nothing of the war were at risk of repeating the conflict. "It is only by reminding oneself of what happened that you can try to avoid it happening again," said Dame Vera, whose singing lifted the spirits of Britain's soldiers in the 1940s.

She was speaking at a private viewing hosted by Age Concern England, the charity for elderly people, of an exhibition of photographs by A. V. Swaebie. The exhibition, at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London, focuses on the brighter side of the war years.

Dame Vera said: "I think many young people have simply never been taught about the 1940s war. I am constantly meeting people aged 30, say, or upwards, who have said to me, 'Well, we were taught absolutely nothing about the 1940s war when we were at school'. They tell me, 'We were told about the Battle of Hastings but not about the 1940s war'."

Dame Vera said that she had been shocked recently on meeting a school child who asked her, "Who is Churchill?" She said part of the explanation might have been that many of those who fought

in the Second World War did not want to talk about it afterwards. "They wanted to try to forget it."

She was pleased that the profile of the war had been raised last year and that people were expressing more interest. She said: "The young children are now learning about it. They send me drawings about how they imagine it must have been with the bombs and write me letters asking about my songs. It is the 20-25 generation that is poorly informed."

"They should know, because none of them would be enjoying the lifestyles they have today if it weren't for those who got themselves killed in the war."



Dame Vera: letters

Duke leads worshippers at service in Belfast

BY NICHOLAS WAIT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of York, who is visiting Northern Ireland's six counties, led the commemorative events yesterday at an ecumenical thanksgiving service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

The Duke was cheered by a crowd as he arrived for the service which remembered the 10,000 Irish people, from both sides of the border, who died during the war.

The Very Rev Dr Findlay Holmes, a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, told the congregation that Ireland's ability to remember the dead from both communities showed that there was a new spirit of reconciliation.

"It is important for us today to remember that Irish men and women from every county in this land served and suffered in the fight against fascism, and from both sides of the community here in Northern Ireland," Dr Holmes said.

Later in the evening the Duke of York was guest of honour at a civic banquet at Belfast's City Hall where he met war veterans. Sinn Féin's ten Belfast councillors had earlier turned down an invitation to attend.



Eastenders enjoy jelly and ice cream in the sunshine at Watney Market in Poplar yesterday as thousands joined the VE-Day celebrations

East End parties revive wartime spirit

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LONDON'S Eastenders, whose wartime stoicism won them the undying admiration of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, celebrated in traditional cockney fashion yesterday.

The East End, large swaths of which were reduced to rubble during the Battle of Britain, was a sea of red, white and blue. The Union Jack fluttered over houses, schools, public houses, shops and car aerials. Streets were garlanded with hundreds of yards of bunting.

Jellied eels, cockles, mussels and

bangers and mash were served at dozens of street parties. Trestle tables were laden with food. Streets that had been rebuilt after the war echoed to the strains of Planagan and Allen and Dame Vera Lynn interspersed with Take That for the younger generation. Africans and Asians, relative newcomers to the community, joined in.

The East End remembered. The older folk recalled the fires that swept Bethnal Green, Bow, Hackney and crossed the river to lay waste to Bermondsey and Greenwich. They felt that they had been as fierce as

anything the capital had suffered in 1666. Parties revived the community spirit for which the East End was once famed. For the first time in decades householders left their front doors open. Neighbours who had never spoken became friends.

Every household in the 120 flats that overlook Watney Market in Wapping joined in the celebrations. They spent five months raising the £1,500 for the party.

But for some, there were also unhappy memories. Betty Weemes, 67, who was at a party in Brownfield Street, Poplar, lost a 19-year-old

brother and her husband was wounded.

"It's fantastic to think that younger people today have organised this. It brings us together. My grandchildren ask about their granddad. His photograph is on the television. They know. They respect."

Mrs Weemes, who worked in a munitions factory, said: "I went to a VE party in Greenwich. We dressed up and laughed, danced and cried, for almost two weeks. The weather wasn't as nice as today. We didn't care. The war was over. That was all that mattered."

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Risk of death 'higher in pregnancy'

Women taking Pill urged not to panic over heart risk

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH experts urged women not to stop taking low-dose contraceptive pills, saying there was a greater risk of dying during pregnancy than from circulatory disease caused by the drugs.

Fresh fears about the safety of Britain's most popular contraceptive pills were raised yesterday as solicitors confirmed that more than 20 women or their relatives were preparing to sue the drug manufacturers.

The women, who took Femodene, Minulet, Logynon and Marvelon, suffered blood clots and arterial disease which in some cases caused death. At least 29 women taking Femodene are known to have died or been disabled by blood clots.

Rosalie Houghton, a solicitor in Hereford who has been working on the cases for three years, was nominated last week by the Legal Aid Board to co-ordinate a group action. She said she had been contacted by more than 100 relatives and survivors seeking advice. Most cases involved Femodene.

Mrs Houghton said yesterday: "There is a major flaw in the reporting system for side effects and fatalities because in some cases in which young women have had blood clots, the link with oral contraceptives has not been mentioned."

But Professor John Guillebaud, Britain's leading ex-

pert on contraception, said: "The risk of dying from circulatory disease caused by the Pill is six per million. That is more than ten times safer than the risk of dying in pregnancy. The modern Pill may double the risk of something that is very rare."

Joe Jordan, a consultant gynaecologist, said: "If the Pill was withdrawn totally from the market, then I suspect the mortality rate would be higher because of unplanned pregnancies."

Professor Guillebaud, Professor of Reproductive Health and Family Planning at University College Hospital, London, added: "Women should be given better information to enable them to judge the balance of risk between pregnancy, the Pill and the alterna-

tives. I have long argued for better information to be supplied with the packs."

Earlier this year Sir Montague Levine, the south London coroner, urged the Health Department and manufacturers of the Pill to put more prominent health warnings on the packs, instead of in the smallprint of accompanying leaflets. He spoke out after a 20-year-old clerk died of a heart attack caused by blood clots after taking Femodene for less than two months.

Schering Health Care, manufacturer of Femodene, said no writs had been received in connection with any deaths. "All the information on side-effects and risks is there with the packs. We pioneered information presented in plain English for patients."

Schering also makes Minulet, which is identical to Femodene, and Logynon. Marvelon is made by Organon Laboratories.

The Health Department emphasised that combined oral contraceptives had been used safely by millions of women. "They carry a small risk of side-effects including blood clots leading to stroke. These risks are lower in modern low-dose pills, which include Femodene."

The Family Planning Association has a helpline to answer queries about contraception: 0171 636 7866.



Levine urged clearer warnings on Pill packs



Police search the beach at Hunstanton, with holidaymakers unaware of the fatal accident in the sand dune

Boy found dead in sand 'tunnel'

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE body of an eight-year-old boy was yesterday found buried in the sand, yards from where his family were relaxing on a holiday beach when he went missing on Saturday. A major air and sea search had been mounted for Finbar Kelly at Hunstanton in Norfolk.

The Leicester schoolboy had wandered a few yards from his parents and four-year-old twin brothers, who were on a day trip, and begun digging tunnels in a sand

dune with a local boy aged six. Finbar had tunnelled six feet into the dune when it caved in. The 4ft 2in boy is thought to have suffocated under the weight of the sand.

At 3.15pm his mother, Katriana, and stepfather, Robert, alerted the police. Coastguards and two RAF helicopters joined the search with scores of holidaymakers and local people. Firemen used heat-seeking cameras to search the dunes. There was no sign of him and police feared he had been abducted.

Yesterday morning the six-

year-old boy, who has not been named and is thought to have wandered off before the accident, told his father about the tunnelling. The father told the police and the six-year-old retraced his steps to the collapsed tunnel. Finbar's body was discovered at 11am, a foot down.

The dune where Finbar died is a gradual incline of loose sand approaching chalk cliffs at Old Hunstanton beach. The sand has been blown up the beach by the wind and gathered into a mound below the cliffs.

Superintendent John Hale, of Norfolk Police, said: "This is an absolute tragedy for everyone involved. It is the type of thing inquisitive youngsters are always at risk from. He was only out of sight of his parents for a matter of a few minutes."

Mr Hale praised the six-year-old who, he said, was a "bright little boy". He added: "He retained his memory of the scene. He took us almost directly to the spot." He warned parents: "Loose sand dunes are particularly dangerous to tunnel into."

Two held after body of woman found near bay

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO men were being questioned by detectives last night after the badly stained and partly clothed body of a young woman was found in undergrowth.

Police believe that the woman, aged about 20, was killed elsewhere before her body was dumped close to a nature trail at Oxwich Bay, on the Gower peninsula in West Glamorgan. She was thought to have been carried to the spot wrapped in a blood-spattered blanket found at her side.

Police said that little attempt had been made to conceal the body, which was found by a man taking his dog for a walk. Detective Chief Inspector David Thomas said: "It's our belief that the body was dumped there. We are anxious to speak to anyone who saw a car pull up on the road close to the trail and carry a bundle away. This is a terrible tragedy that has robbed a family of their daughter."

The young woman has not been named but may be from the outskirts of Swansea. Her body was taken to Singleton Hospital, Swansea, for a post-mortem examination by Professor Bernard Knight, a Home Office pathologist.

The trail leads to Oxwich Point, which gives panoramic coastal views. Teenagers have been enjoying the hot weather with late-night beach parties and barbecues and police believe that the victim may have been out with a group.

Diane Workman, who runs a guest house near where the body was found, said: "It was very quiet on Saturday night and you could hear conversations of people walking on the path because it was so still. But we heard nothing all night." Reginald Charlton, 41, a village shopkeeper, said: "If someone wanted to hide a body there it could stay hidden for years. Whoever committed this awful crime has obviously panicked while trying to dump the body."

Police estimate there were 10,000 visitors at Oxwich Bay over the weekend and they appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

MI5 forced to spy out new role as Irish terrorism subsides

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE long-term future of MI5's substantial Irish counter-terrorism section is under examination on the eve of talks starting this week between the Government and Sinn Féin.

A changing role for MI5 officers, to include intelligence-gathering against organised crime syndicates, drugs traffickers and money launderers, is being considered. About

half of MI5's core intelligence work is devoted to countering Irish terrorism. No decision is expected in the near future on switching resources away from Irish counter-terrorism, nor is there any imminent threat of job cuts among the 2,000 staff or substantial reductions in MI5's annual £150 million budget.

Although the IRA and loyalist ceasefires have lasted eight months, MI5 officers in the Irish counter-terrorism branch are still engaged full-time in collecting intelligence

about the terrorist organisations which has helped to guide the Government as it prepares for peace talks. That role will continue for some time, especially while the IRA and loyalist groups retain their weapons. However, if Irish terrorist violence has gone for good, there is a recognition within the service that in a year or so there could be demands for substantial cuts in MI5 manpower.

The possibility of new roles for MI5 has been portrayed as evidence

of a turf war between the police and the Security Service. Senior police officers have voiced concern that MI5 is plotting to move into traditional police investigation areas to safeguard its future.

There is also concern that if MI5 were to gain ministerial approval for switching resources into combating organised crime, it might have civil liberty implications because of the service's image as a secret organisation less publicly accountable than the police. MI5, under

Stella Rimington, its director-general, denies that it is trying to move in on police business, underlining the importance of not throwing away intelligence-gathering assets developed over many decades.

When the issue of switching MI5 resources becomes a matter for ministers, the service's argument for a changing role seems likely to focus on the need for a more liberal interpretation of its statutory functions, laid down in the 1989 Security Service Act. MI5's responsibility is

to collect material by covert means to counter terrorism, subversion, espionage and other threats to national security and to economic wellbeing.

Security sources argue that crime by groups such as the Mafia, the Colombian drug barons and the Triads, all of which increasingly target the United Kingdom, could be interpreted as posing a potential threat to national security. These groups operate within closed communities and are hard to penetrate.

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Judges taught how to question children

JUDGES are to be trained how to deal with child witnesses in court to avoid them being put through needless distress and to cut excessive delays in child abuse cases. Some judges are failing to allow children to be interviewed on videotape and are reluctant to allow them to give evidence by video link.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is concerned that child abuse cases are taking months to come to court, despite a government commitment that they should be given priority. On average, it is 10 months before the cases are heard — twice the national average — with many taking

■ There is concern at delays in bringing child abuse cases to court. Frances Gibb reports on steps to expedite proceedings

over a year and some up to 23 months. A plan to issue every family law judge in England and Wales with a training video on dealing with child witnesses is being drawn up by a team of judges, lawyers and government officials, funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

At the same time, Lord Mackay has asked Dame Margaret Booth, the former High Court judge in charge of

monitoring the Children Act 1989, to inquire into delays. "I am very concerned that these cases are taking longer than they should," he said recently, "because the lifetime of a child is a comparatively short time."

In a recent report on child abuse prosecutions, Joyce Plotnikoff pointed out that in February 1988 John Patten, then Home Secretary, announced that child abuse cases deserved priority and it

was reasonable to assume that that meant they would be speeded through the courts. "In reality, the commitment to assign child abuse cases to a fast track has been virtually ignored."

Her study, conducted with Richard Woolson, looked at 200 child abuse cases over two years. By the end of the study 186 had reached trial, at the stage where a plea was taken from the defendant. They had taken more than ten months from first appearances at magistrates' courts to final hearings. "New statutory procedures to expedite cases were little used and were ineffective in delay reduction," the study

found. The study also found that, despite the hope that children's distress would be alleviated through videotaping interviews and the use of live video links to avoid children having to give evidence in the courtroom itself, there was an "undercurrent of resistance" to its use on the part of some judges, lawyers and Crown Prosecution Staff.

"We were told of areas in which the videotaping of interviews with children had almost stopped because of the response of local judges."

In one major court centre, television link equipment was used in only two out of 26 trials in which children gave

evidence, she said. "Such policies ignore the intent of the legislation and fail to give any weight to the child's preference about how to give evidence."

The training video is aimed at helping judges to communicate with children at court and encouraging the use of pre-trial hearings so that all the major issues are dealt with before the day of trial, thus cutting delays.

The NSPCC has voiced concerns about the handling of child abuse cases in court and has called on the Home Office, with the Department of Health, to set up a review as a "matter of urgency". It is

running a "Justice for Children" campaign to change the way in which children in the criminal justice system are treated. As well as the problem of delays, it cites the lack of counselling for children after a trial; the treatment of children in court as if they were adults; often "hostile, accusatory and confusing"; the sacrificing of children's welfare to legal argument on evidence; and who should conduct pre-trial interviews.

The society wants all children to have the option of giving their evidence pre-trial, as well as training for lawyers on cross-examining them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man is charged with PC's murder

A man has been charged with murdering a policeman in east London last month. Scotland Yard said Anthony Clayton, 33, unemployed, of Willesden, northwest London, would appear before Redbridge magistrates today.

He is charged with the murder of PC Phillip Walters, 28, in Ilford, and with the attempted murder of PC Derek Shepherd, who was shot in the hand.

Lottery deadline

Lottery prizes worth nearly £7 million are still waiting to be claimed. The deadline for claims from the first draw is May 17. Prizes not claimed will be divided between good causes.

Winning numbers, page 20

Sunday winner

Twenty thousand attended the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket, first of the season's classics run on a Sunday. The crowds, attracted by prolonged sunshine, matched those for Saturday's 2,000 Guineas.

Racing, pages 29-31

Glider pilot dies

A pilot was killed yesterday when his glider crashed onto Parham airfield at Cootham, West Sussex. The man, an experienced pilot who was flying solo, had been in the air for an hour when the accident happened.

Surfing death

A boy aged 14 died in a surfing accident off the coast near Tenby. Ewan McIlwraith, of Hodgeston, near Pembroke, died in hospital after getting into difficulties off Manorbier beach, Dyfed. A postmortem examination will be held.

Man drowns

A man died while trying to retrieve a ball from the Thames at Reading and was swept away by the current. The body of Lawrence West, 27, who was living in a hostel in the town, was retrieved by frogmen two hours later.

Fans arrested

Police made 27 arrests after rival football supporters clashed at the Huddersfield Town versus Birmingham City match on Saturday. They will appear before Huddersfield magistrates on June 13.

Pub bans lager

A Leeds pub has banned lager as "a ladies' drink for south-easterners". Ronald Stokes, 54, believed to be the first publican to impose the ban, said: "It seems to be paying off. The pub is taking more money."

Two sites chosen as pilot 'boot camps' for youths

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service has identified two sites for American-style "boot camps" intended to provide a tougher regime for young male offenders.

Plans for a pilot project in which convicts aged 17-21 will face a strict regime including work, education and exercise are expected to be announced by the Government in the coming weeks. The two sites are at Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution near Warrington, and near the Ministry of Defence's corrective training centre at Colchester.

According to Prison Service

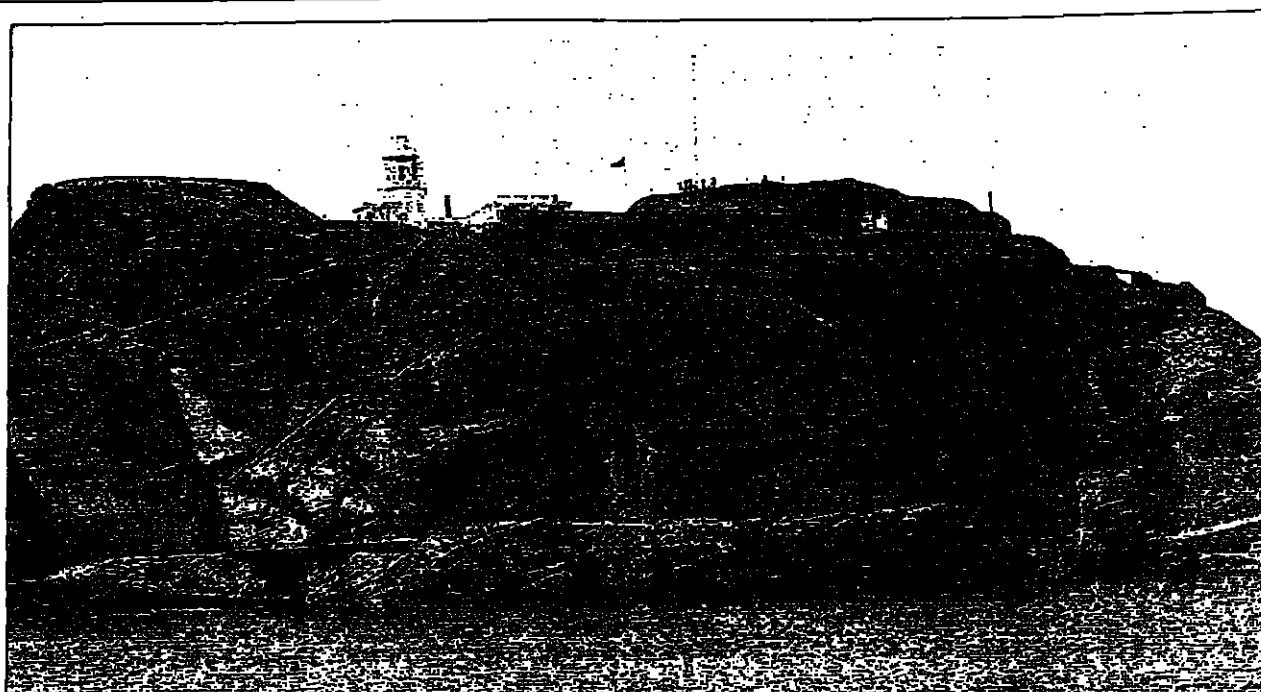
sources, the terms "boot camp" and "high impact programme" will not be used; they are considered too emotive and American. The institutions are also unlikely to include features found in US boot camps, such as dawn reveilles, square-bashing, drills and inmates having their heads shaved.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said yesterday: "If the term boot camp is no longer acceptable to the authorities, perhaps calling them

Howard Camps would show just who was responsible for this waste of public money."

Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, said that the regime would get offenders "used to the fact that they are responsible for their own actions and get them used to actually having to work hard".

Today the Government's proposals for a boot camp project are condemned by the Prison Reform Trust. A trust report says that Prison Service officials advised ministers against the idea.



Lundy, a windswept granite home to 14 people, 600 sheep and 25 cattle. There are 20,000 visitors a year

Island kingdom lures pretenders

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE
CORRESPONDENT

APPLICANTS are queuing to fill the post of uncrowned monarch of Lundy Island, the seabird paradise in the Bristol Channel with a shady past as a refuge for pirates and smugglers.

Although the job has been advertised for less than a week, dozens of people have offered their services to the Landmark Trust, the charity that administers the lump of windswept granite topped by grass, scrub and heather.

How many are serious candidates is another matter. "We are not too interested in starchy-eyed romantics with notions of getting away from it all," Robin Evans, the trust's director, said. "Running the island is every bit as demanding as managing an estate of similar size on the mainland, with the added handicap that it is stuck 12 miles out to sea."

The resident agent, to give the position its proper title, rules over a domain just over three miles long and a quar-



A Victorian church looks down upon cottage homes on the three-mile island

ter of a mile wide, with a full-time population of 14, all employees of the trust. The trust's job description pamphlet candidly warns would-be agents that "island life can at times be lonely, physically demanding, frustrating and socially restricted".

This may be a delicate reference to the reasons for the vacancy. John Puddy, the previous agent, who held the job for ten years, resigned two months ago after a much-publicised affair with the island's resident barmaid (now also departed) whose flame-haired charms had caused turmoil in the small

community. Mr Puddy's replacement will qualify for a salary of £25,000 and free accommodation in a single-storey wooden house. Any man or woman over 35, preferably married, can apply. No specific qualifications are required but it would help to know something of farming, accountancy, catering, mechanical engineering, wildlife management, architectural conservation and operating a ferry service.

Whoever is chosen will be ultimately responsible for the smooth working of the island's farm (600 sheep and 25

cattle), the letting of its 23 grey-stone holiday cottages, the running of its shop and tavern and the care of its historic buildings, which include a Victorian church and a Georgian lighthouse and the 13th-century castle ruins. Up to 20,000 people a year visit the island.

Lizzi Takagi, who has run the Marisco Tavern with Nigel Walker, her partner, since 1992, said: "It is incredibly beautiful, even in winter when it is rainy, misty and very windy, with foghorns sounding in the distance. There is no pollution, no noise and no crime."

Neighbours with nature at its best

BY KATE ALDERSON

LIFE on the Welsh island of Skomer, with thousands of birds and seals for company but no mains electricity and only one tree, is paradise found for Simon Smith.

He became the sixth warden of Skomer, a national nature reserve and the most important sea breeding colony in southern Britain, six months ago. Mr Smith, 31, and his partner, Christine Barton, 42, who is a volunteer-warden, share the island off Milford Haven, Dyfed, with 160,000 pairs of Manx Shearwaters and 6,000 puffins.

Mr Smith took the post, which comes with a bungalow and a £9,000 salary, after two

years on the Isle of Noss, Shetland. "There is nothing I miss about life beyond this island, which is covered in bluebells at the moment, giving it a glorious blue hue, and I can watch baby seals play in the sea from my kitchen window. I can't think of anything more perfect," he said.

Researchers, birdwatchers and tourists visit Skomer, which has two other permanent staff. The 2 mile by 1.5 mile island is managed by Dyfed Wildlife Trust. "We're not really away from it at all. As well as human visitors we just had 1,000 swallows arrive as they migrated north," Mr Smith said.

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Major's 'communication' comments suggest Hanley on way out as party chairman

Portillo calls for plain speaking to win voters

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO urged the Conservative Party to return to its core values yesterday as shell-shocked Tory MPs spent the holiday week-end holding a painful inquest into the Tories' humiliation in last week's council elections.

The Employment Secretary's robust response to the loss of more than 2,000 town hall seats contrasted with that of John Major and his senior colleagues, who identified a failure of communication as the party's main problem.

They are to embark on a series of meetings with party members to re-establish links with the grassroots and raise battered morale. The listening exercise was dismissed by disgruntled right-wingers as another gimmick when what was needed was "firm views and opinions" from the top.

Mr Major said in a newspaper interview: "I think it is true we have not communicated... I suppose we spent too much time on the politics of

policy and too little time explaining to people why we are doing what we are doing."

The Prime Minister's remarks, echoed by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and other senior figures, were seen by MPs as a strong indication that Jeremy Hanley's days as party chairman are numbered. Amid intense speculation about who might replace him in a Cabinet reshuffle, not expected until July, backbenchers urged the Prime Minister to gamble by appointing one of the Cabinet's stars, Michael Heseltine or Mr Portillo. There were also suggestions that such a heavy-weight might be backed up by a high-profile deputy such as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare.

Kenneth Baker, the former Tory party chairman, said that Mr Heseltine should be given the job and made deputy prime minister as well. Others plumped for Mr Portillo. "We need somebody who can fight

for us and has a brain in his head. Portillo seems the most appropriate," one *Thatcherite* MP said.

Writing in *The Mail on Sunday*, Mr Baker said: "We need a heavyweight with experience and authority to articulate our policies and demolish those of our opponents... A chairman who can stand up to a three-week election campaign in the face of fire from the media and Opposition. You land punches and leave bruises."

Ministerial insiders played down the prospect of either man getting the job. They pointed out that Mr Heseltine had turned down Central Office in the past and would do so again and Mr Portillo was said to "sow the seeds of mistrust" and to be ill-fitted to establishing a close-working relationship between Smith Square and Downing Street.

Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, was emerging last night as the

frontrunner to succeed Mr Hanley, with Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, being widely mentioned. They are all close to the Prime Minister and regarded as Cabinet successes.

Amid the efforts to steady the Tory ship, Mr Clarke played down the significance of a reshuffle, saying that few voters were interested in this "mad soap opera". But privately, senior right-wingers said that only a ruthless cull of mediocre ministers and policies aimed at pleasing traditional Tory supporters could save the Government from electoral disaster.

Mr Portillo said that the fact that Tony Blair was now trying to speak a "Conservative language" was confirmation that the majority of people supported Conservative values. He suggested on BBC radio that the Tories had to speak out more plainly to win back defectors.



In the hot seat: Jeremy Hanley prepares to appear on television yesterday

Labour welcomes Ashdown overtures

By NICHOLAS WOOD

LABOUR leaders gave a cautious welcome yesterday to Paddy Ashdown's move to recommend the Liberal Democrats drop their "equidistance" between the two main parties.

The aim would be increased co-operation between Labour and Lib Dem councillors in the town halls left hung after last week's rout of the Tories and top-level talks nationally about policies. It would not lead to a formal electoral pact.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said the shift was "an important recognition" by the Liberal Democrat leader that it was no longer tenable to suggest that he might help to keep the Tories in power after the next election.

On Saturday, on Channel 4's *The Week in Politics*, Mr Ashdown set the stage for a battle at his annual party conference by saying the issue must be tackled soon. He has been boosted by last week's evidence of increased anti-Tory tactical voting. His Lib Dem colleague Simon Hughes said yesterday it was time to stop "fudging" the issue.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Alcohol and the threat to children

THE death last week of a six-year-old girl who choked on her own vomit after drinking wine will act as a timely reminder to parents to keep children away from the drinks cabinet.

Stacey Collins from Swansea had been given a glass of wine by her mother. She then made regular trips to the kitchen where the opened bottle had been left. Her blood alcohol level after death was about twice that which would have disqualified her from driving but it is quite possible that the paracetamol and codeine that she had also taken may have contributed to her death.

Extreme drunkenness and inhalation of vomit is more likely to be fatal at parties given by undergraduates or army recruits than in a family home. Young children have died in this way because they want to copy adults, who they have just seen enjoying a drink. But a far more common cause of death in children than inhalation of vomit is hypoglycaemia (a low blood sugar level).

Heavy intake of alcohol encourages the body to produce insulin the next morn-

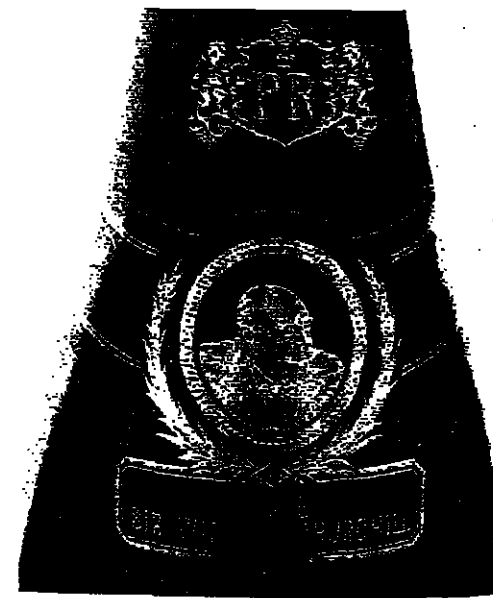
ing. The phenomenon of hypoglycaemia after drinking is much more apparent in children than in adults; in adults the low blood sugar usually does little more than add to the misery of a hangover.

In young children, however, the hypoglycaemia can cause permanent brain damage or death. It is akin to the condition experienced by diabetics who have taken insulin but not eaten their usual amount of food. The symptoms include sweating and abnormal behaviour before confusion, stupor, coma and death supervene.

Many parents whose children have, unbeknown to them, raided their sideboard or finished glasses left by guests after a dinner party would have sympathy with Stacey's mother but the rule must be to keep alcohol out of their reach. If they are allowed to try wine, it should always be well diluted. Any small child who is obviously drunk should be taken to a casualty department.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

THE TIMES



Win 10 cases of Pol Roger champagne

To help you get into the spirit of the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day, *The Times*, in association with Pol Roger champagne, offers you the chance to win one of ten cases of the Sir Winston Churchill Cuvée 1986 in our easy to enter competition.

Pol Roger was the only drink of which Sir Winston truly approved, and the cuvée was specially disgorged on November 30, 1964 (the 120th anniversary of Churchill's birth).

Its firm, old fashioned pinot-noir dominated palate, with an equally prominent musky bouquet, is likely to become a collectors item, and readers of *The Times* can win a case, worth £300, by answering four questions designed to test your knowledge of Sir Winston.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Sir Winston Churchill's ancestor, also called Churchill, distinguished himself as one of Britain's greatest military commanders. By what name is he better known?

2. Churchill loved returning to his old school for reunions, where he joined in the singing of the school song. What was the school and the name of the song?

3. Churchill had a distinguished record in other wars. Which?

4. What is the name of the house in Kent, now owned by the National Trust, where Churchill spent his later years?

Phone in your answers to all four questions before midnight on Wednesday May 10 on 0891 866963. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. *Calls cost 30p cheap rate/45p at all other times

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HOMAS TAFORD

pol ne

Eight die in rain of shells near Sarajevo lifeline

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND DESSA TREVISAN IN ZAGREB

MORTAR shells reportedly killed eight people and wounded dozens in a Sarajevo suburb yesterday, in the bloodiest single attack on the Bosnian capital since Nato vowed more than a year ago to blast any big gun that fired on the city.

"It is a massacre," said Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister. "The question is whether those resolutions by the UN and the decisions by Nato are still valid. Their silence is disgraceful. People all over Europe and the world are celebrating the victory over Fascism today. Fascism is not dead," Mr Silajdzic added bitterly.

He said that eight people had been killed and as many as 40 wounded, though many were reported to have only superficial wounds. Five large-calibre mortar shells landed in quick succession near the entrance to a busy tunnel that keeps Sarajevo alive.

Most of the food, fuel, arms and other supplies that sustain the city pass through the underground passage that is the city's only link to the outside world. It runs under the UN-controlled airport, the slimmest lifeline through the Serb ring around Sarajevo.

The casualties appeared to be a mix of civilians and soldiers. Because of the difficulty of carrying loads through the cramped tunnel, most of the city's food is carried in by off-duty soldiers to feed their families or to sell. The attack came less than a week after rebel Serbs in Croatia rocketed the capital.

Zagreb, killing six people and wounding nearly 200. That affront drew strong condemnation from peacekeepers, diplomats and Western politicians.

Yesterday's bombardment of Sarajevo, however, drew more embarrassment than outrage. After a shell attack on a crowded marketplace in February 1994 in which 68 residents were killed, Nato banned all heavy weapons from within firing range of the city. Although nearly 10,000 Sarajevans had been killed by two years of shell and sniper fire, the single incident outraged Western leaders.

The ultimatum was backed by Nato warplanes, which have gone into action twice around the city in the past year, both times against anti- quated Serb weapons. Alliance warplanes were over the city on training flights at around the time of yesterday's

incident, but were not called in. When asked how the UN would respond, one peacekeeper replied lamely: "We'll protest. It is disturbing to all of us." He added that the attack may have been provoked. Since last autumn, the UN, which has all but ruled out calling in warplanes, fearing Serb retaliation.

In Croatia, President Tudjman, bolstered by the military strike against Serb-held western Slavonia, laid down new terms for the UN presence. Before leaving for London to attend the VE-Day commemorations, he presided over the country's security council, at which a brief communiqué spelled out new conditions for the UN force in Croatia. It would be confined to monitoring rebel Serb rocket bases and the airport at Udolina, and UN forces would be deployed along the internationally recognised borders of Croatia.

Meanwhile, the war of words between the Croatian authorities and the UN continued over allegations that Serb civilians and refugees were strangled and killed while fleeing from western Slavonia into Bosnia. This was angrily denied by the Croats, who have demanded a public apology.

UN sources claimed to have evidence from Serb refugees, some 7,000 of whom have so far registered in the Banja Luka area, that civilians were deliberately killed. The section of the road is controlled by a Nepalese battalion, some of whom saw burnt-out cars and dead civilians on the main road leading to the Sava



Some of the 1,700 Serbs — captured in last week's attack by Croatian forces on Pakrac, western Slavonia — who are being held in a handball court at Bjelovar

Bridge last Monday and Tuesday. But there is no evidence — as some of the refugees claim — that they were directly targeted by artillery and sniper fire. There is a greater likelihood that they were caught in cross-fire as they travelled with the Serb rebels.

The Croats are still savouring their victory, which is being attributed to the military doctrines of Dr Tudjman. This serves to enhance his personality cult and reinforce the standing of his ruling party, the HDZ, although the Croatian mood is

unlikely to lead to new military adventures. After arriving in London yesterday, Dr Tudjman, assured Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, that his troops did not plan any further action.

Matthew Parris, page 16

Tehran's nuclear aims overshadow Moscow summit

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BEHIND the smiles and handshakes of the official VE-Day celebrations in Moscow tomorrow, Russia and America are gearing up for some sharp exchanges over a number of serious disputes.

While the two will almost certainly lock horns over Russia's war in Chechnya and the debate over Nato's enlargement, the Clinton Administration has served notice that its priority is to persuade the Kremlin to cancel a recent nuclear reactor deal with Iran.

Mr Clinton is likely to make his case during talks with President Yeltsin on Wednesday, when he will present classified US intelligence information allegedly proving Tehran's intentions to use Russian technology to build its own nuclear bomb.

American concern was first raised in January, when Russia and Iran signed a \$625 million deal for the completion of a nuclear plant at Bushehr, where 150 Russian technicians have begun work on constructing two light-water reactors. The Russians insist that the contract is for a civilian energy programme and that it has not violated any of its obligations under international law. David Kyd, spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the world's nuclear watchdog, said in Vienna that Iran, as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, had so far complied fully with its obligations.

"Our inspectors visit Iran every three months and so far we have found no evidence to suggest that Tehran is involved in suspect activity," he said. However, the Americans are persuaded that the project is nothing more than a cover for Tehran's desire to build up

a sophisticated nuclear infrastructure and secretly to acquire enriched uranium and plutonium, both used for constructing a nuclear warhead.

The Americans question why an oil-rich state, self-sufficient in energy, needs to build such a large nuclear complex. They suspect that the extensive training provided to Iranian scientists and technicians by the contract would inevitably lead to a transfer of vital nuclear weapons technology. Also, it is not clear what would happen to spent fuel from the future Iranian nuclear reactors, which includes plutonium. In theory, the waste could be reprocessed in Russia and the plutonium extracted and returned to Iran.

Washington is particularly alarmed about plans for a second agreement with Iran for the Russians to build gas centrifuge systems, which would enable the Islamic regime to enrich its own uranium.

Finally, the Clinton Administration is concerned that IAEA checks are inadequate, and points out that they failed to detect highly advanced nuclear weapons programmes in Iraq and North Korea.

Even in Russia, where the Iranian contract has been welcomed as a valuable source of revenue for the country's neglected nuclear industry, experts have voiced doubts about assisting their volatile southern neighbour to acquire nuclear know-how.

While there may be some room for compromise over the dispute, officials on both sides predict that, for domestic political reasons, neither President Yeltsin nor President Clinton can risk being seen as weak during the negotiations.

Israel rejects plea to UN over Jerusalem

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL bluntly rejected a call yesterday by the 21-member Arab League for a UN Security Council meeting to stop its confiscation of 133 acres of Palestinian land in annexed east Jerusalem. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli Housing Minister, declared: "The battle for Jerusalem has begun."

The planned Israeli land grab on territory conquered from Jordan in the 1967 war is the biggest attempted in the Holy City for 15 years. Most of the confiscated acres will be used to expand Jewish housing and to build a new local police headquarters.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry yesterday sum-

moned the American and Russian Ambassadors in Amman to urgent talks to discuss the dangers posed to the peace deal if the seizure goes ahead. Both countries are joint sponsors of the peace process that began in Madrid.

The Israeli move, which is causing deep anxiety among many Western governments, cast a shadow over the re-opening in Cairo yesterday of talks aimed at overcoming a nine-month delay in the implementation of the second stage of the peace pact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "This plan has sparked fury in the region," said Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Algerian magistrate shot dead

Algiers: A 35-year-old prosecutor was shot dead in front of his children near his home in a residential area of the Algerian capital. Parid-Amar Aissani was shot in the head as he held his five-year-old daughter in his arms while his son, aged four, stood nearby, the *Liberté* daily newspaper reported. Mr Aissani was prosecutor for the court in Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers.

Magistrates are among prime targets of Islamic fundamentalists trying to overthrow Algeria's military-backed Government. More than 20 have been assassinated in the past three years. On Friday, Islamic gunmen shot and killed five foreigners, among them a Briton. (AFP)

Purge on crime

Johannesburg: Additional police are to be sent into crime "hotspots" in South Africa, including parts of KwaZulu-Natal province where at least 54 people have been murdered in the past week.

Ethiopians vote

Addis Ababa: Millions of Ethiopians voted in their first multiparty election, in which the ruling coalition was expected to achieve a landslide victory. Ethiopia has been split into nine states. (Reuters)

Torture claim

Colombo: A Sri Lankan rights group has accused the Tamil Tiger rebels of torturing hundreds of women inmates at camps in the Jaffna peninsula. Victims were allegedly blindfolded and chained. (AFP)

Veteran MP dies

Athens: Giorgos Mavros, a former deputy Greek Prime Minister, has died after a long illness. Mr Mavros, 87, was first elected to parliament in 1946 and had held a variety of Cabinet posts. (AP)

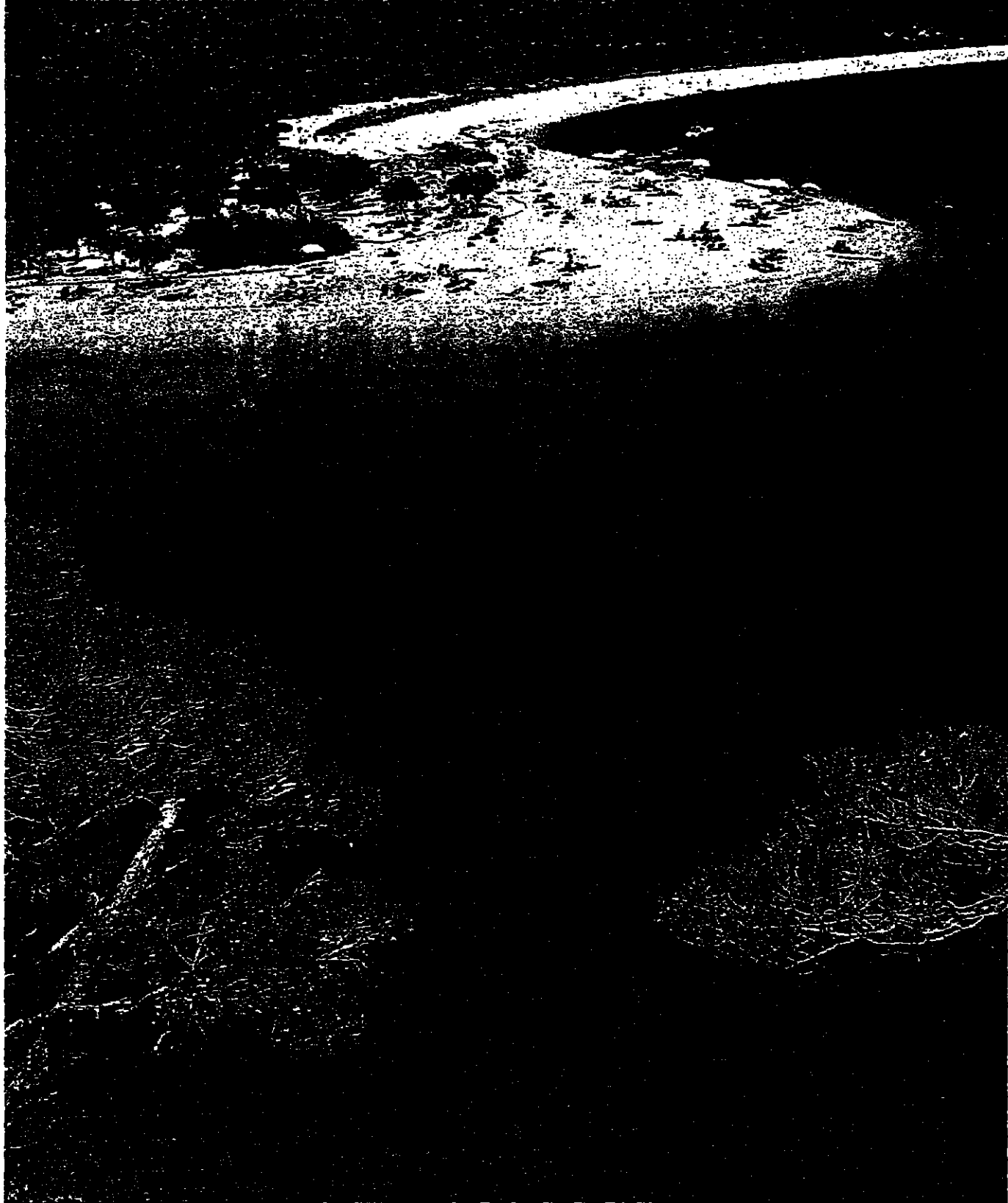
Drugs clean-up

Peking: The southern Chinese province of Canton arrested 3,000 drug dealers and 18,000 users in a two-month sweep. About 570 underground shops and 1,900 drug parlours were closed. (Reuters)

Nun beatified

Rome: The Pope has beatified Mother Maria de San José, a Venezuelan nun, who founded a religious order that runs hospitals, clinics, orphanages and homes for the elderly. She died in 1967. (AP)

Cleopatra's private beach... public ever since.



Legend has it that the fine-grained sand on Turkey's Aegean coast was brought from Egypt by Mark Antony to make the Queen of the Nile feel at home. Today, like then, nature and history unite in Turkey to recreate

Cleopatra's paradise. A mosaic of antiquities and sandy beaches, Turkey's coastline offers something for everybody. So much so, you'll wonder why you ever thought of going anywhere else.

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AGE Concern AID-CALL

Gauillist chameleon claims ultimate prize after two decades of perseverance

Chirac promises to restore French spirit of conquest

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

IF THE shade of Charles de Gaulle is on hand for the VE-Day parade in Paris today, it will be savouring the timing of a double triumph. Half a century since France's wartime saviour reaped the fruits of his crusade, his spiritual descendant has won back the Elysée Palace, lost by the Gaullist movement in 1974.

Jacques Chirac is promising to "restore to France its spirit of conquest", but his victory is a modest one, with little epic about it. Like de Gaulle's own struggle back from defeat, the triumph of M Chirac is the reward for single-minded perseverance and an obsession that defied the political odds. Inspirited by a conviction that his destiny is entwined with that of France, M Chirac, 62, has fought for nearly two decades for the country's supreme post, falling in the past two elections, surviving the rebellion of lieutenants and the scorn of a political world that was dismissing him as a losing has-been only three months ago.

While Lionel Jospin, his defeated Socialist opponent, ran for the office almost by accident, M Chirac, one of Europe's most tireless campaigners, has lived for the presidency since he resigned from the job of Prime Minister under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1976 and refounded the Gaullist movement as a personal campaign vehicle. For the past two years of solitary campaigning while Edouard Balladur, his protégé, stole the limelight as Prime Minister, M Chirac has been telling friends: "I am thinking only of one day: May 8, 1995."

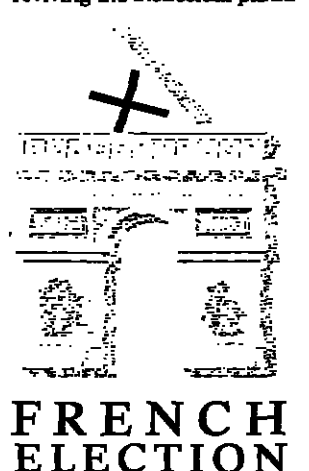
For all the sweetness of vindication, the tall, energetic Mayor of Paris is aware that his victory is a modest one, defined by the close race with M Jospin and by the fact that only 20 per cent of voters picked him in the all-comers first round. No leader since de Gaulle opened the directly-elected presidency in 1965, has won with so little enthusiasm from his countrymen.

In tune with the sour mood, reflected by the vote for extremist candidates, M Chirac has promised to scale down the presidency, curbing what he calls the "monarchical" quality it acquired under M Giscard d'Estaing and, especially under the 14-year reign of François Mitterrand. He will not, he insists, behave like a "super-Prime Minister" with

his hands on all the levers of state and government. His Prime Minister, expected to be Alain Juppé, the present Foreign Minister and interim Gaullist leader, will run the government, leaving President Chirac to act as an arbiter and national father figure.

His government team is expected to contain many new faces from the "forty-something" generation as well as old Chirac loyalists and a number of present Cabinet figures who sided with M Balladur.

President Chirac will be able to count on a loyal and heavy majority in a parliament that has been elected to run. He has promised not to dissolve it, as M Mitterrand did in 1981 and 1988. Philippe Séguin, the Speaker and one of his closest lieutenants, is expected to be given the job of reviving the ineffectual parliament.



FRENCH ELECTION

ment as a force in French life. Campaigning against rule by the élite, M Chirac has also promised to abolish the private Cabinets that have come to surround ministers, often acting in their name with no political mandate.

Scepticism runs high, however. The last two Presidents arrived with similar reformist claims and swiftly donned the regal air offered by the great powers of the seven-year presidential term. Adding to concern, is M Chirac's long-standing image as a political weathervane and an impulsive leader.

In the 1970s, he was a left-leaning nationalist who opposed European integration. In the 1980s, when he served as Prime Minister under M Mitterrand, he was a convinced free-marketier who privatised state enterprises

and worked for the single European market. Over the past year, travelling incessantly around the country, M Chirac has reinvented himself as a crusader for social reform, presenting himself as the man who best understood the dangerous rift separating the poor from the comfortable classes.

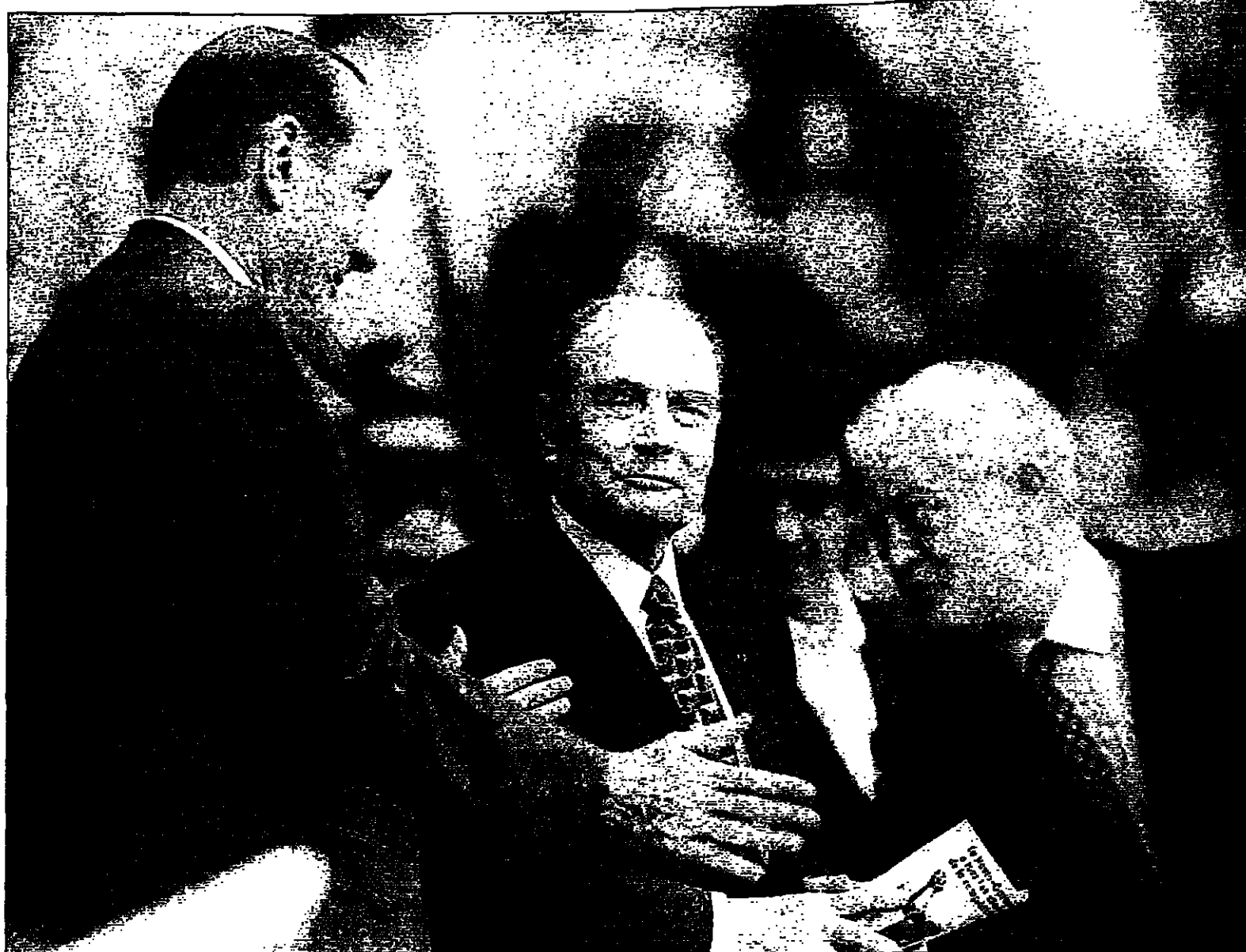
France's European allies are also watching nervously to see how he reconciles the ambiguous stances he has taken towards the European Union. He has swung to and fro throughout his campaign between devotion to deeper, broader union and the single currency, and views that echo doubts in Britain over the dilution of national sovereignty. With his commitment to France as a strong nation state, the British Government believes a Chirac presidency offers far better prospects for shaping the Union than a Jospin one would have done. The expected appointment of the pro-European M Juppé as Prime Minister, will, however, allay fears in Germany and other neighbours that M Chirac could shift away from France's commitments under the Maastricht treaty.

With his narrow victory, M Chirac will not be accorded the honeymoon that was granted to M Mitterrand when he swept to power in 1981. Voters will expect him to move swiftly to fulfil his promises of radical measures to heal unemployment and what he defines as the worst national crisis since 1958. However, markets and economists remain doubtful about his Ronald Reagan-style promises to curb deficits, raise incomes and maintain the welfare state without imposing higher taxes.

A warm-hearted man with the direct and dynamic manner of a natural leader, M Chirac is the first to acknowledge the troubled image that friends put down to shyness and unease with himself. Friends say he truly has "found himself", not least because he has broken free from his habit of leaning on high-powered advisers.

M Chirac's victory reflects not so much a belief in his ability to open a new era of change, as a decision by a conservative-leaning country to anoint an old hand with long government experience.

Leading article, page 17



President Mitterrand looks on as Jacques Chirac, left, meets his Socialist rival, Lionel Jospin, right, at the French rugby union final in Paris

Bonn looks forward to early talks

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BONN expects Jacques Chirac swiftly to reaffirm the importance of the Franco-German axis by seeking a summit early next month with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

For the past two weeks both the Chancellery and the Foreign Ministry have been analysing the possible consequences of a Chirac victory and the interim judgment seems to be rather cool and cautious: much depends on how far the new French President-elect honours promises to stimulate employment. Public spending projects could, however, delay French progress towards European Monetary Union.

The first German demand will be a pledge of French support for a European convention and a more lucid position on the Schengen open borders agreement. Europol — the European Police network — is one of Herr Kohl's most cherished projects.

EU distrust for winner who will put France first

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

AFTER the victory of Jacques Chirac, European Commission officials were pondering how the eclectic views of the Elysée's new incumbent will shape the European agenda.

Although reconciled to the President-elect's "lukewarm" support for the Maastricht treaty, many officials fear that M Chirac's determination to preserve a "sovereign France" will not easily be reconciled with the vision of economic and political union. To meet the conditions for union, as laid down by Maastricht, for example, France must keep its currency stable while at the same time reducing its budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product — down from nearly 6 per cent.

The markets will undoubtedly feel more comfortable with a Chirac victory in the short-term. However, his electoral commitment to expand unemployment subsidies and reduce taxes, without boosting the budget deficit, is seen by

most Commission officials as wholly untenable. Any attempt to reflate the economy can only be achieved by torpedoing the Maastricht criteria on curbing deficits.

Few expect to see the introduction of a single currency before 1999. M Chirac is on record as saying that 1999 "is a rendezvous which France must keep" but, officials in Brussels ask themselves, what if France fails to meet the criteria? Without France there will be no European Monetary Union.

M Chirac's assertion that he wants a "real common foreign and security policy" without jeopardising the national veto is seen by most Commission officials as an exercise in reconciling the irreconcilable. Nobody in Brussels believes he can do it, and most fear that in true Gaullist tradition, he will always put France's interests first.

No Commission official would go on record as saying

it, but most fear that M Chirac is not sufficiently *communitaire*. His commitment to hold a referendum on the outcome of next year's inter-governmental conference is viewed here with deep suspicion. What, they ask, happens if the electorate rejects it?

Calculating that the European integrationist tide is receding, M Chirac has made no secret of his determination to see the powers of national parliaments strengthened, and the influence of the European Commission and European Parliament downgraded.

M Chirac's rejection of any enlargement, which threatens the subsidies handed out to French farmers in the Common Agricultural Policy, has already put him on a collision course with Britain, which is adamant that Europe cannot afford to extend handouts to Czech, Polish and Hungarian farmers. As one observer said, however, M Chirac's policy positions are still fluid.

FACTBOX

Jacques Chirac born November 29, 1932, in Paris. Entered the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in 1957 and went on to become a civil servant. Has two children by his wife, Bernadette, whom he married in 1956. He is deputy of Ussel in the Department of Corrèze, central France, where he also holds seat as a local councillor in commune of Meymac. Minister of Agriculture from 1972-74, he twice served as Prime Minister, from 1974-76 and 1986-88. President of the Gaullist RPR Party from 1976-1994. Mayor of Paris since 1977. Having cast himself as heir apparent to de Gaulle's legacy in the early 1970s, Chirac has been trying ever since to fulfil his presidential ambitions. Eliminated from first round of presidential election in 1981. Stood again in 1988, and lost to President Mitterrand in second round.

Moscow's troops in Tajikistan 'defending West from Islam'

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

RUSSIAN officers in Tajikistan, justifying their role in the former Soviet republic, are fond of appealing to Western sympathies by citing a global conspiracy.

"Muslim fundamentalism is a threat to the whole world," said Sergei, a lieutenant with the 201st Motorised Infantry. "By containing it here, we are defending the West as well. You should be grateful to us [and] not keep going on about Russian imperialism."

The fear of such an Islamic threat is widespread in official Russian circles, which helps to explain the consensus among politicians in favour of maintaining Moscow's defence of the Tajik regime.

This support is shared even by people who recognise, as do most Russian officers on the ground, that the regime is corrupt and tyrannical.

An exception is the shrinking band of Russian liberals: however, they are becoming increasingly irrelevant.

Russian parliamentary deputies arrived in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, the weekend before last to visit Russian units and express their support for the Russian military presence, while lambasting the Government for incompetence and for allegedly unnecessary heavy casualties.

This echoes developments in the rebel Caucasus republic of Chechnya, where eventually the great majority of deputies supported the war in the name of maintaining Russian power and of "territorial integrity".

Russian officials are obsessed with their own Central Asian "domino theory", according to which if Tajikistan falls to the Islamic and tribal opposition, the other former

Soviet republics of the region would follow suit.

The former communist, generally pro-Russian regimes of Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan would collapse, millions of local Russians would flee, and in the words of Colonel Aleksei Lobov: "We will have Afghanistan on the borders of Russia itself."

This is neo-colonialism by regional consensus. All the Central Asian governments, including the relatively progressive one of President Akayev of Kirghizia, have strongly endorsed the Russian military presence, and have



sent small forces of their own, under a Commonwealth of Independent States decision to defend the Tajik frontier. Last month, the Kazakh battalion in Kazakhstan was attacked by opposition forces and badly mauled.

The former communist regime of President Karimov of Tajikistan played a key part in the victory of the Tajik communists in the 1993 civil war. He has genuine reason to fear future Muslim unrest at home, and in discussions with Western representatives has used this to justify his heavily authoritarian regime. Russian-sponsored talks between

the Tajik Government and opposition are due to resume in Alma Ata, the Kazakh capital, on May 15, but few observers hope for much from them. Western diplomats in Dushanbe privately accuse the Russians of negotiating in bad faith.

"The Russians want to go on controlling the whole country. They have no intention of getting out," one diplomat said. "During the last negotiations in Moscow, they promised not to move their troops, but they made no effort whatsoever to stick by this."

Diplomats say that the refusal of the Russian Govern-

Dushanbe: Tajikistan plans to launch its own currency on Wednesday, making it the last Central Asian state to drop the Russian ruble. The move had been announced in December as part of an economic recovery programme. Tajikistan is one of the poorest of the former republics of the Soviet Union. (Reuters)

ment to include its troops and border guards in a ceasefire agreement between the Tajik Government and opposition makes that deal meaningless, and renders the work of the United Nations military observers in Tajikistan even more difficult.

One opinion poll after another has shown large majorities of Russians opposed to seeing their soldiers, and above all conscripts, killed in Tajikistan. The Russian Defence Ministry has had to promise that only volunteers will be sent there.

Some Russian populist leaders, with an acute sense of the

public mood, have been more equivocal about the Tajik involvement than would be expected, given their headline nationalist image.

General Aleksandr Lebed has publicly criticised "Russian boys dying in a Tajik war". Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader who was part of the Duma delegation, delivered his statements about Russian power in Central Asia in his usual aggressive roar. However, he ended by saying that "whatever happens, the Russian boys must be withdrawn".

Mr Zhirinovskiy, a rabid nationalist, desperately wants to be elected President. When it comes to sacrificing Russian lives beyond the country's borders, the Russian people are not nearly as belligerent as their statements sometimes suggest.

Russian officers commanding Tajik troops on the Tajik-Afghan border say morale is low and they cannot rely on their soldiers to fend off attacks from rebels based in Afghanistan. Ethnic Tajiks comprise 90 per cent of the border guards and by autumn the last Russian units are due to leave the frontier area.

"I have a problem with these soldiers," said Lieutenant Vladimir Marchenko, commander of the lower Pyanj border post. "It is logical for Russians to serve in the Russian army, not Tajiks: their behaviour is unpredictable and in emergencies you cannot rely on them," he said.

More than 200 Islamic rebels and 40 border guards from the Commonwealth of Independent States were killed last month on the Tajik-Afghan frontier, according to Russian figures.



Murayama: impressive

China talks stymied by home woes

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, broke symbolic new ground in his visit to China last week, but political paralysis in both countries stood in the way of using the fifth anniversary of the Second World War to improve ties.

He ended his five-day visit, which included talks with Chinese leaders and visits to war monuments, on Saturday. He impressed his hosts by becoming the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit the Marco Polo Bridge outside Peking, where Japan used an exchange of fire with Chinese troops in July 1937 as a pretext to launch total war on China.

That gesture smoothed the way for talks with Li Peng, his Chinese counterpart, and President Jiang Zemin. However, the drift and transition in both countries' politics translated into ritualistic meetings.

Peruvian guerrillas join forces with drug barons

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN TOCACHA, NORTHERN PERU

THE bullet holes perforating the walls of Tocacha's police station remind local people of who wields power in this remote jungle town, set deep in the Huallaga valley of northern Peru — an area otherwise known as "cocaine valley".

The graffiti on the walls of the now-desolate local headquarters of the anti-drugs police convey the message even clearer: "Hands off our cocaine. It is what keeps our people alive."

But last week's attack on Tocacha's police station, which claimed the lives of 11 officers, was not just another massacre by drug barons, whose trade provides a third of the world's cocaine supply and is Peru's biggest foreign exchange earner.

It was part of a renewed offensive by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels, who have decided to work with cocaine traffickers to fund their terror campaign, which has in the past year suffered a serious setback after the arrest of most of their leaders. The guerrillas see their direct involvement in the

drugs trade as the only means of furthering their ruthless movement.

"Sendero once supported the growing of coca leaf because it provided a livelihood for poor campesinos," said José Villalobos, a farmer who makes a living from selling coca leaf, the raw material used to produce cocaine. "But they have now switched sides and have become narco-terrorists. They threaten us if we don't provide enough."

Shortly after the attack on the police station, hooded rebels dragged more than a dozen campesinos to a central square and cut their fingers off for not supplying enough coca leaf to traffickers. "They said I had been a traitor to the revolution for not helping the cocaine trade," said one of the victims, who preferred to remain anonymous.

But for most campesinos in the 300-mile valley, the economic gain of coca-growing is convincing enough. A 24lb bag of the leaf sells for \$70 (\$43). "It's the only way to feed our families," said Senor Villalobos. Programmes to destroy

coca fields mounted by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in co-ordination with Peru's anti-narcotics police have failed. "We had cut down dozens of plantations but they would just crop up somewhere else," said Juan, a former Peruvian volunteer working for the DEA.

From the air above the valley, green patches of coca plantations can be seen tucked in between the steep hillsides that make up the jungle. It is also obvious that coca-growing on a huge scale has spread to the neighbouring Aguaytia valley.

Businessmen in the region's largest town of Tingo Maria run a booming trade in car batteries even though only a handful of vehicles use its streets. "The narcos use the batteries for the sulphuric acid, which is used to process cocaine," said one shopkeeper.

Despite issuing one of Latin America's most comprehensive documents outlining its war on the cocaine trade last October, the Government of President Fujimori is unable to convince thousands of campesinos to swap crops.

Euro ministers outgrow new home

BY MICHAEL DYNES

A £300 MILLION office complex designed to house the European Council of Ministers in Brussels will have to be ripped apart immediately after its official opening later this month to make room for new members of the European Union.

Located at Rond Point Schuman, on the Rue de la Loi, the seven-storey Justus Lipsius

complex will replace the antiquated Charlemagne building as the council's headquarters at the next meeting of European foreign ministers, on May 29.

Rebuilding will provide facilities for up to 15 simultaneous ministerial meetings, offices for about 2,500 permanent staff and space for up to 1,000 journalists, as well as three restaurants, a gymnasium and sports centre, and

2,000 parking spaces. Since the headquarters complex was designed before Sweden, Finland and Austria joined the EU in January, Belgian construction workers will be called in to install new translation and interpretation booths throughout most of the building. Further disruption is expected to accompany the new accessions from Eastern Europe.

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN MANILA

His plea for the 36 million electorate to give its verdict on his rule was made before the hanging in March of a Filipino housekeeper, Flor Contemplacion, in Singapore for the murder of another maid and a four-year-old boy.

In all, about 80,000 candidates are vying for the Senate, House of Representatives, governorships and thousands of local offices with rallies embellished by pop stars, motorcades with loudspeakers blaring out snappy campaign tunes, and millions of giveaways. More than 30 people have been killed despite a ban on guns over the election period, and security forces are on the alert in Mindanao in the southern Philippines for possible attacks by Muslim extremists, such as the one last month that devastated the town of Ipil and left many dead.

Republ

...nita, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, left for Zaire. They said they would meet again in Angola, but set no date. **Domine Blondin Beye**, the United Nations envoy to Angola, said the two leaders, who were alone for most of their meeting, had discussed a future role for Mr Savimbi's government and the possibility of fresh elections. He said aides had drawn up a document of items agreed in talks but it was not available yesterday. "The solution is South African model... negotiate power-sharing step-by-step democracy."

José Gonçalves, a political analyst with the African Council for Social Sciences, "It is important now for the Angolan Government to involve Unita in the running of the country. The next serious move is to see Unita's representatives in parliament," he said. The war halted in 1992 when elections were agreed, but fighting resumed when Unita lost the poll. (Reuters)

Ninety people were treated for mostly minor injuries ranging from cuts caused by broken glass to bruises from hailstones after the storm hit an outdoor May festival, a hospital spokesman said. Some roads were buried to a depth of two feet in hailstones. Most of those who died were drowned while trying to escape from flooded vehicles. Five of the drowning victims were from one family. Among other victims was a boy, 15, struck by lightning, and a woman who died in a house fire, sparked by lightning. Storm damage is put at \$400 million (£250 million). (AP)

Miami: The US Coast Guard yesterday sent 13 refugees back to Cuba after the Clinton Administration announced that it would close camps at Guantánamo Bay, allowing more than 20,000 Cubans held there since last summer to go to America (David Adams writes).

The Government said last week that Cubans who try to leave the island illegally would be repatriated. The 13 men were picked up from rafts south of Cuba on Friday, were sent back on a Coast Guard vessel. The Americans also sent an officer to Havana, on the first US military flight to Cuba since 1959, to liaise with the authorities. Last week 27 Haitians, including 14 children, were forcibly sent from Guantánamo Bay to Haiti.

Harare: A lucrative market for raw ivory in South Africa is causing a poaching onslaught against Zimbabwe's 70,000 elephants (Michael Hartmann writes). The disclosure, by Glenn Tatham, Zimbabwe's chief game warden, comes as President Mugabe's Government is reviewing, secretly, tender bids to remove 8,500 elephants from six reserves where, say wardens, excessive numbers are destroying natural habitat. Mr Tatham says that more than 100 carcasses have been found in the Zambezi Valley. He said Zimbabwe's army and air force would be joining in the fight against poaching gangs.

AN INTERNATIONAL swindler, several murderers, rapists and drug users joined ranks yesterday to express their sorrow at the transfer of India's most senior woman bureaucrat from her job as head of Asia's biggest jail. There was even talk of a strike.

Miss Bedi fell foul of politicians during two years at the prison, which has more than 8,000 inmates packed into facilities for 3,000. She has been moved to the police force in charge of training.

X-RAY machine that can see through a person to see what is underneath may soon be a reality. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Homeland Security are working on a prototype of a machine that can see through a person's clothes and detect weapons, explosives, and other threats. The machine is called a "backscatter" machine and it works by sending out a low-energy X-ray beam that reflects off the body. The reflected beam is then captured by a detector and processed by a computer to create an image of the person's back. The machine is currently being tested at airports and other public places. If successful, it could greatly enhance security and help prevent terrorist attacks.

weapons and explosives undetected using trace detectors, *The New York Times* editorial.

The new machine brushes between malapropisms, "anonymity", the newspaper delicately, and the already been criticised tactics groups who see it as a personal privacy. Teeled apart, the new radars provide much titillation for the guards.

Using high-frequency

scanner feeds radar echoes from a person's skin into high-powered computers that then form an instant holographic image of the body, and any weapons that might be concealed on it.

The resulting picture is relayed to a video monitor built into a pair of goggles worn by the machine operator. Unlike conventional detectors used in airports, which monitor the magnetic field around a body to pick up metal objects, the machine would be able to identify such items as explosives and knives made from non-

ic material such as carbon-fibre images, although explicit, are not graphic," an engineer at Pacific Northwest Laboratory who has worked on the project, was quoted as saying. "In any case, we foresee setting up cameras in pairs at each entry — one for males and one for females, with security officials screened by sex." Expense and modesty prevented the technology from being used in the past, but last month's attack in Oklahoma City may change that.

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Touching or vulgar?
David Bailey's
photos of Catherine
go on sale in *The
Lady is a Tramp*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

Top of the props

No, Wood's films are not the worst. The worst films are beyond inept: they are so inert, so stupid, that your mind turns to jelly while you try to watch. Jacques Marquette's *Teenage Monster*. Richard Cunha's *Mission to the Moon*. *The Incredible Petrified World* and other works of Jerry Warren — these are the Z-grade films to fear. Since

- ◆ **Ed Wood opens in London on May 26. Special ticket offer, see page 15**
- ◆ **Plan 9 from Outer Space, Night of the Ghoul and Jail Bait will be released on video next Monday. The script of Ed Wood is published today by Faber and Faber (£7.99). Nightmare of Ecstasy, by Rudolph Grey, is published by Feral House (£9.99)**

In 1980, *The Golden Turkey Awards* anointed Ed Wood as the world's worst director, and handed his *Plan 9 from Outer Space* the palm of worst film. He and it soon became camp cult legends

● THE West End will be buzzing with musicals this autumn. In addition to *Jolson* and *Tommy*, both opening in late October, the West End premiere of *Mack and Mabel* is now scheduled. The 1975 Jerry Herman musical, which introduced such evergreens as *Time Heals Everything*, will be directed by Paul Kerryson and open on November 7 at the Piccadilly.

Ingrid Attrot and Stephen Rooke in *The Garden*, one of the three *Passion Killers*

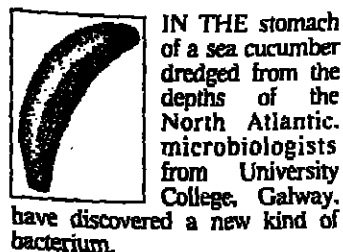
Ironically, if anything let them down, it was this shamelessly populist instinct. Although keen not to be labelled a retro act, they indulged in some fairly dubious old songs during a lengthy series of encores — everything from *Memories are made of this* to an audience singalong of *Give Peace a Chance*. The world is, deservedly, their oyster, so perhaps they should put the weddings and bar mitzvahs circuit material on hold for now.

hand only, there is a whole range of discreet Stravinsky echoes, from *The Soldier's Tale* to the late ballet scores. But there is much else, of course: above all, the wit which is such a feature of the Ross personality, and the highly sophisticated technique. There is also more than a touch of minimalism. The composer's programme note gives warning that in first performances the orchestra must shout "Here's to L.F. from L.F." in the final bars. Although this was the first British performance of the left-

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Has the earliest life-form been found inside sea cucumbers? ☐ Genetics and the brighter fly ☐ How well do the British understand science?



IN THE stomach of a sea cucumber dredged from the depths of the North Atlantic, microbiologists from University College, Galway, have discovered a new kind of bacterium.

The find emphasises just how little we know about the world of microbes. Dr Martin Embley, of the Natural History Museum in London, who has collaborated with the Galway scientists, says the bugs belong to a class known as archaeobacteria, so named originally because they were believed to be ancient, primitive forms.

In the past few years, however, these bacteria have been found in oceans throughout the world. "They're cosmopolitan and ubiquitous," says Dr Embley, "and they may be among the most abundant organisms in the oceans."

How can such a common type of organism go undetected for so long? Traditionally, microbiologists study bacteria by growing them in culture on plates. If the bug finds the culture medium pal-

Microbe from the depths



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

atable, it will grow, but if it cannot compete with faster-growing types, it will soon be swamped. This means that only those bacteria that flourish can easily be studied.

The Galway team — Dr Richard Powell, Dr John Patching and James McInerney, a PhD student — used a different approach. They separated the genetic material from the sea cucumber's gut, multiplied the DNA and sequenced it. In other words, they studied the genes of organisms they had never seen.

The sequences they produced, now published in the *Journal of*

Applied and Environmental Microbiology, showed them to belong to the archaeobacteria, specimens of which have been found in both the Pacific and the Atlantic by American scientists. Though the first such finding was reported only in 1992, Dr Embley says it is clear that they may be dominant species in the oceans.

But what do they do? "We don't know," he says. "We know they're important; the race is on to discover what they do." Whatever it is, they are clearly important in the ecology of the oceans. Dr Powell chose to look for

them in the gut of the sea cucumber because the creatures graze on the sediments that lie on the bottom of the ocean, stripping out the bacteria and feeding on them.

The first interest is evolutionary. Where do the archaeobacteria lie on the tree of life? It is possible, Dr Powell says, that these bacteria are the descendants of the first forms of life that emerged in the oceans as the Earth cooled.

The challenge now is to find ways of culturing them. "We've got to get these chaps to grow," says Dr Powell, although it may be difficult to reproduce the conditions that obtain under 4,000 metres of Atlantic water. Once cultured, the bacteria's biology can be studied. One possibility, he says, is that they might be methanogens, a group of bacteria that produce methane, one of the major greenhouse-warming gases. So the study could be more than merely academic.

Dr Embley is more excited by the prospect of uncovering a new world of microbes. "We've just scraped the surface so far," he says. "We probably know about 1 per cent or less of the microbial world."

High flyers



A CLEVER breed of fruit flies has been created by genetic engineering. The flies learn ten times as fast as their more pedestrian fellows, indicating something about how memory is organised in the species.

A team at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island, New York, manipulated a gene called CREB, which they believe to be a "master gene" which regulates the genes responsible for producing the proteins involved in long-term memory in the fruit fly.

They report in *Cell* that CREB produces factors that both increase the production of the memory compounds, and suppress it. They have created a clever strain of fruit flies by altering CREB so that it activates production of the memory compounds, and linking it to a sequence that was temperature-sensitive.

This meant that at normal temperatures the fruit flies were of average ability, needing ten train-

ing sessions to avoid an odour linked to an electric shock. But at 37°C, and with the gene switched on, they learnt avoidance in a single session.

A similar, though not identical, mechanism may operate in mammals. Firmly held memories may be locked in place by networks of brain cells in which the activator proteins are produced in larger amounts. But the results so far contain no clues for anxious students awaiting exams.

True or false?



WE MAY not be quite as ignorant of science as we thought. An international survey of public understanding carried out by social scientists in 20 countries during 1993 and 1994 puts Britain third, after Canada and New Zealand.

The results, reports *New Scientist*, were recently unveiled in the US. Out of a maximum of 12, Canadians scored 7.58, New Zealanders 7.52 and the British came

hot on their heels with 7.49. The US came in seventh, at 6.57, with Japan twelfth at 6.21 and Israel showing surprisingly poorly in fourteenth place, at 5.85.

The questions asked respondents to say whether a proposition was true or false. The greatest confusion arose over the ozone hole and the greenhouse effect. Only 21 per cent answered "false" to "The greenhouse effect is caused by a hole in the Earth's atmosphere."

Poor US performance was partly explained by muddle over evolution. Worldwide, 70 per cent agreed with the statement "Human beings developed from earlier species". But in the US, only 48 per cent agreed, reflecting the strength of the creationist view.

Astology also caused difficulty, with only 44 per cent denying that "astrology, the study of star signs, has some scientific truth". And almost two-thirds believed, wrongly, that "all man-made chemicals can cause cancer if you eat enough of them".

Of the 25,000 people questioned, those with British-style education systems came out top. Bottom? Poland, who scored 4.33.

Suspended sentence on mass medical trials

Just after the end of the Second World War, scientists at the Medical Research Council faced a dilemma. The new drug for tuberculosis, streptomycin, had just become available in Britain, but was in very short supply. There was not enough to treat everyone. The question was, who should get the precious drug?

The answer was suggested by the statistician Austin Bradford Hill. He supervised a study in which streptomycin was allocated to patients with tuberculosis on the basis of pure chance. The drug was a spectacular success, and for the first time doctors could make a precise measurement of just how effective a treatment was. And so was born the randomised controlled trial (RCT), one of the most important medical technologies of recent decades.

Comparing treatments is far from simple. In a kill-or-cure situation, it is easy enough to know whether or not some-

Random tests on thousands of patients cannot replace careful scientific analysis, says Dr Bruce Charlton

thing is effective when penicillin was newly discovered, the drug was able to save people from otherwise certain death. However, most of medicine is not a matter of miracle cures, but of modest improvements. This is where trials come in.

The greatest difficulty in evaluating a treatment is the variability between patients. There are many common medical conditions — such as arthritis or breast cancer — in which the course of an illness is very variable. Patients can have unpredictable relapses and remissions, and spontaneous improvements, so it is hard to be sure whether a treatment has made any difference. The "placebo effect", where the expectation that a treatment will be helpful actually produces a benefit, makes it harder still.

One famous example of the

placebo effect was the "insulin coma" treatment for schizophrenia, which certainly seemed to be effective at relieving the symptoms of this disease. But an RCT demonstrated that the benefit came from the high level of tender loving care lavished upon these patients, and the insulin infusion was merely a rather dangerous distraction. The treatment was quickly stopped.

The key to valid trials is randomisation. Patients are allocated randomly to two or more treatment and control groups. By the operation of pure chance, each group will eventually end up containing a virtually identical mixture of patients — balanced in terms of sex, age, severity of illness, and all the other known and unknown factors which might influence the result. This al-

lows a fair comparison between different treatments.

For example, another early MRC trial evaluated treatments for depression, comparing electroconvulsive therapy, anti-depressants and a placebo. The most effective treatment was ECT, followed by anti-depressants, but even dummy tablets seemed to help more than a third of patients.

Only an RCT can achieve such results. But randomisation will work properly only when there are enough patients, and the early trials were often criticised for having insufficient numbers to allow groups to be properly balanced. Furthermore, small numbers meant that only large differences between groups could be detected. Therefore the next step was the development of the mega-trial containing thousands of pa-

tients, and capable of discovering even small differences between treatments.

The most famous example is the ISIS series of trials (still continuing), which are refining the treatment of heart attacks. The first trial involved more than 250 units in 14 countries, and more than 16,000 patients, to study the effectiveness of beta-blockers. The ISIS-2 trial of aspirin and streptokinase was of similar size. Adopting the recommendations of these and similar studies has revolutionised the treatment of myocardial infarction, substantially improved the chances of surviving a heart attack, and probably saved tens of thousands of lives. So, properly used, mega-trials have a vital role.

But there is a price to pay for constructing such enormous experiments. Mega-trials must be relatively basic, robust and crude in their methods if they are to recruit and process enough patients. Furthermore, it is impossible to maintain the highest standards of consistency in a multicentred, multinational study — variations are inevitable. From the scientific viewpoint, this means that mega-trials achieve their greatly increased statistical power at the expense of reduced scientific rigour.

The desire to increase the numbers of patients in a randomised trial by relaxing the standards of experimental control cannot be allowed to go too far. At the extreme, trials would include such a wide range of patients and adopt such crude treatment regimes that they would end up having no relevance for clinical practice.

The mighty achievements of mega-trials have understandably led to their over-valuation, and misconceptions concerning their role in medicine. Zealots may advocate that any treatment which has been validated in a mega-trial must be applied across the board (with all others excluded from NHS funding).

However, mega-trials have fundamental flaws in their methodology and limitations to their applicability which mean that, although useful, they can function only in a secondary role at the end of a long process of development. Randomisation of large numbers cannot compensate for lack of knowledge and understanding.

The more exact and reliable disciplines of medical science — such as pharmacology,



More than simple statistics — people must still be treated as individual patients

microbiology and molecular biology — are vital to generate the framework of understanding without which mega-trials are impossible. Once science has come up with the ideas, and medicine has devised a range of treatments, then RCTs come into play.

Applying the results of mega-trials will always require judgment when it comes to the treatment of individuals. After all, the treatments evaluated are usually out of date by the time the trial is published. And if it needs ten thousand patients to show a difference between treatments, then superiority of one or another cannot be regarded as compelling for each and every individual. For instance, it has sometimes been advocated that beta-blockers should be

given to all patients after a heart attack, unless there are specific contra-indications. But Desmond Julian, formerly Professor of Cardiology at Newcastle and a participant in more than 20 RCTs, points out that trials are done on untypical groups of highly selected patients, and that the results may not be applicable to general practice. Also, close examination suggests that there are some patients whose outlook is so good that they do not need beta-blockers which, like all drugs, bring a risk of side-effects.

Fifty years after the first RCT, we have many reasons to thank Austin Bradford Hill, who also, along with Professor Richard Doll, established the link between smoking and lung cancer. And we are now

in a position to understand the role of randomised trials, and mega-trials in particular.

Mega-trials should be seen as supplementary to medical science, not as replacing it. Large trials are essential for detecting small differences and making small improvements. But mega-trials are not creative, and the future of medical progress depends upon discovering large differences and inventing large improvements. This will need imaginative insights which cannot be reduced to statistics. For the higher forms of human inspiration we shall continue to depend upon strong intellectual foundations in medical science.

Dr Bruce Charlton is lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology at Newcastle University.

The deadly diet of the red squirrel

MANY theories have been suggested to explain the demise of the red squirrel in the face of its more successful North American cousin, the grey squirrel. These have included claims that red squirrels are less fertile than the greys and that greys are more aggressive.

Now findings by biologists, published in a recent *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, blame the red squirrels' diet for their decline. Unlike the greys, which thrive on acorns, red squirrels are poisoned by the tannins they contain. The greys produce a special enzyme which allows them to digest the tannins.

At the same time the greys are depriving the reds of hazelnuts, which they can

digest and which they eat when ripe, by consuming them before they mature. So red squirrels are left with an unhealthy diet of acorns in many broadleaf forests, whereas the greys have an abundance of food



Red squirrel: poisoned by a diet of acorns

sources where both compete. "Our research raises some delicate issues. Do you want to remove oaks from large areas of the countryside to reduce the availability of food for the greys? The trees look nice, are good for timber and for a wide variety of wildlife," says Dr Roger Kenward of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology's Furzebrook station near Wareham, Dorset, and one of the paper's authors.

While the team are convinced that the availability of certain foods is the key, they have also launched research into other more subtle factors such as whether greys may somehow interfere with the courtship of red squirrels or damage their litters.

In Scotland, where red

squirrels survive in large numbers on a diet of pine nuts, greys are still advancing. Dr Kenward says it is possible that, even in such habitats, greys may eventually take over.

NICK NUTTALL

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فكرنا من الامم

Matthew Parris



■ Must politicians wait for events to demonstrate that they are in the wrong when they know it already?

Events, said the Permanent Under Secretary at the FCO, "are very compelling". I was 24; he was Sir Thomas Brimelow (now in the Lords), and he was giving an introductory talk to my group: the 1974 intake into the diplomatic service, about 20 of us.

I remember thinking it was a banal thing to say: what point was he trying to make? Sitting in the Commons Press Gallery last week as Douglas Hurd outlined the Government's position on developments in the Balkans, I knew just what Sir Thomas had meant.

Newspapers hardly report Commons statements or debates any more. It's a pity, because changing moods among backbenchers matter a lot, and the best place to spot the movement of opinion early is in the chamber. I have attended every Commons statement on the former Yugoslavia since hostilities began; and (more important) have listened to the questions that followed. The mood in Parliament is swinging away from British military involvement in this conflict.

Broadly, opinion divides into three groups. There are those whom Mr Hurd has dubbed the something-must-be-done brigade; there are the leave-it-alone brigade; and there are those of uncertain conviction. These last, the waverers, are the most numerous and by far the most important. They do not always voice their indecision, some preferring silence, others preferring to echo the conventional wisdom, but feebly. These MPs are the ones to watch, for when they swing the balance of opinion swings: they may be the wind-sock or the wind — who knows? — but they matter.

And on the Balkans, the wind is changing. Confidence in the wisdom of keeping British troops there has ebbed. Only the hard-core something-must-be-done-ers (such as David Winnick in the Labour Party or the Tories Sir Patrick Cormack) still bang that drum. Scores in the middle are beginning to express, hesitantly, what leave-it-alone-ers such as the Conservative Sir Peter Tapsell and Labour's Dennis Skinner have been saying boldly from the start.

How did Mr Hurd react? Were you to read his words, you might conclude that the Foreign Secretary came down (just) on the side of keeping troops there, but watching him suggested his heart was not in it. More than once he repeated (or protested) that Britain could not withdraw unilaterally. We must act alongside our UN partners, he said.

But to say so had the effect of weakening rather than strengthening his argument. It implied that

we were able to act alone we might be taking a different view. Hearers were left with the vague and uneasy impression that the Foreign Secretary was telling the House that British troops are now locked into a risky position about which the Government feels ambivalent. I found that disquieting.

Mr Hurd held out no prospect of withdrawal. Most of his audience could see very well why, and if they couldn't, Sir Tom could have told them. No event has occurred to justify it.

There is a status quo: never mind whether it is the status quo which with hindsight we would have chosen. It is the status quo now. The troops are there. They are plainly doing something, however limited. Few of them have been killed yet. So something needs to happen before we move.

We may have all kinds of fears for the future, all kinds of doubts about the present, but nothing has happened. To tell our UN partners that we have experienced a sudden and apparently unprovoked change of heart about our role in the Bal-

Soldiers in the former Yugoslavia are waiting to be the event that provokes a rethink

que would appear at best whimsical, and at worst irresponsible.

So we stay. We stay as one stays in a late night bus queue ages after the bus has failed to come and suspicion has grown almost to a certainty that it won't be coming at all — but no one else in the queue has quit, and there has been no announcement.

There isn't going to be an announcement. And nobody is going to quit until somebody does. Yet still we stay. We are waiting for an event. When the event occurs, we will do what we know already must be done and what we know it would be better, if it is to be done at all, to do quickly. But we don't. Why? Because nothing has happened to justify it.

Yet the thing that might happen to justify withdrawal from the Balkans is the death, or grave peril, of a significant number of soldiers. These men do not yet know who they are. They are waiting to be the event which triggers the rethink which we have in fact already rethought. And of course the withdrawal of the UN operation after some ghastly ambush will be all the more humiliating. Yet this waiting for events is passed off by Mr Hurd as the responsible way to go about things.

I fail to see why. Like those who paint by joining up the dots, we wait for each successive dot to appear before progressing with our picture. But if you can see the picture already, why wait? Why lose time? The VE-Day weekend has not been a bad time to ponder these things.

Local votes may tell different stories, but the Tories are failing the classic tests

Lessons from the Somerset voters

A few evenings in life remain in the memory for a golden happiness. Last Thursday I had returned overnight from Washington and should have been feeling jet-lagged, but was not. With my wife I was taken by old friends to Covent Garden to see Dryden and Purcell's *King Arthur*, a joyful performance. The climax of the fifth act is the beautiful song *Fairest Isle*, by far the most moving of all the songs written in praise of Britain. It makes *God Save The Queen* sound commonplace and *Rule Britannia* sound vulgar. Afterwards we had gulls' eggs for supper; with gulls proliferating as they are, and causing the havoc they do, eating their eggs has become an environmental duty.

When we got home, a little after midnight, I telephoned my son Thomas in Somerset. He is a Conservative member of the Wansdyke District Council, and was standing in a two-member ward for the new single council of Bath and northeast Somerset. He won the seat, coming head of the poll with 706 votes, to the top Labour candidate's 601 and the top Liberal Democrat's 331. His fellow Conservative candidate also won. I should, of course, have felt personally distressed by the fate of some 2,000 Conservative candidates who had lost their seats. However, I went to sleep with my mind humming with Dryden, Purcell, gulls' eggs, champagne, the conversation of friends and a family election victory. "Fairest Isle, all isles excellent." Only on the morrow did any political regret break in.

Despite its proximity to Bristol, Thomas's ward can fairly claim to be an English equivalent of *la France profonde*. The ward is quite large, stretching some eight miles on the old turnpike road from Bristol to Wells, now the A37. It includes the village of Stanton Drew with its ancient stone

circle, far older than the Druids themselves. John Ward the elder, the great Bath architect, had the eccentric idea that the whole area was a Druid university, stretching from Stanton Drew to Wookey Hole. At Belton — the town of the Belgae — John Locke's house, in which he lived as a boy and owned until his death, happens now to be for sale. For quietness, goodwill and the ability to get on with their own lives, one can scarcely match the people of north Somerset, yet — like Warwickshire and Shropshire — these quiet people produced the greatest philosopher of the English language.

In such a ward, politics tend to be conducted with the same good nature as everything else. I was not surprised, therefore, that Thomas was pleasantly received when he was canvassing and distributing his leaflets. The issues that were raised with him were real local issues, concerning planning applications, proposed bypasses and matters of that kind. The only angry question in his whole campaign was a complaint about a proposed barn conversion on a neighbour's land. He did not hear a single comment on John Major one way or the other. The voters of north Somerset were too sensible to make their local elections a referendum on the Prime Minister.

Yet the Tory position was terrible, and when one looks into it, it seems worse. Northeast Somerset is temper-

amentally a conservative area. Yet only 16 Conservative councillors were elected, against 22 Labour and 27 Liberal Democrats. The Conservatives won 16,483 votes, Labour 19,430 and the Liberal Democrats 19,772. Bath and northeast Somerset consists of two parliamentary seats, Bath itself and Wansdyke; under the redistribution, Wansdyke has retained a couple of parishes which belong to south Gloucestershire. If one takes the two parliamentary seats one can analyse what happened last Thurs-

day in constituency terms: the south Gloucestershire parishes would make little difference.

At the last election, Chris Patten lost Bath to the Liberal Democrats. He won 42 per cent of the vote, Don Foster, the successful Liberal Democrat, won 49 and Labour only eight. Last Thursday the Conservatives won 30 per cent of the vote in a slightly redistributed Bath constituency, the Liberal Democrats 45 per cent and Labour 25 per cent. That suggests that the Liberal Democrats would again win comfortably, particu-

larly if there were tactical voting by Labour supporters. In 1992 Jack Aspinwall held the Wansdyke seat. He had 48 per cent of the vote, Labour had 28 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 23. Last Thursday's result in the northeast Somerset wards of the redistributed constituency look very different: Conservative, 29 per cent; Labour 47; Liberal 24. The Labour Party is doing even better in Wansdyke than the Liberals are in Bath, and last Thursday almost reversed the proportions which gave Jack Aspinwall his 13,000 majority in 1992.

For some reason, the new county council was established with a number of two-member wards, and at least one with three members. This allows a comparison between party voting, where both votes go to the same party, and individual voting, where the votes are split, or go only to one candidate. Of course some people may not have understood that they had two votes. In Thomas's ward, both the Conservative candidates received a vital personal vote. Their joint vote, some of which must itself have been owing to personal support for the candidates, was only 549, which was lower than the top Labour vote. Doug Miles, Thomas's strong Conservative colleague, was elected because he had a personal vote equal to 12 per cent of the joint party vote: Thomas had a

personal vote equal to 29 per cent of the party vote.

This, or something like it, was true throughout the county: the 16 Conservative councillors were almost all elected because their personal vote dragged the party to victory. The party's unpopularity defeated many good councillors: some good councillors were just able to save their own seats. If this was true of northeast Somerset, it was probably true throughout Britain.

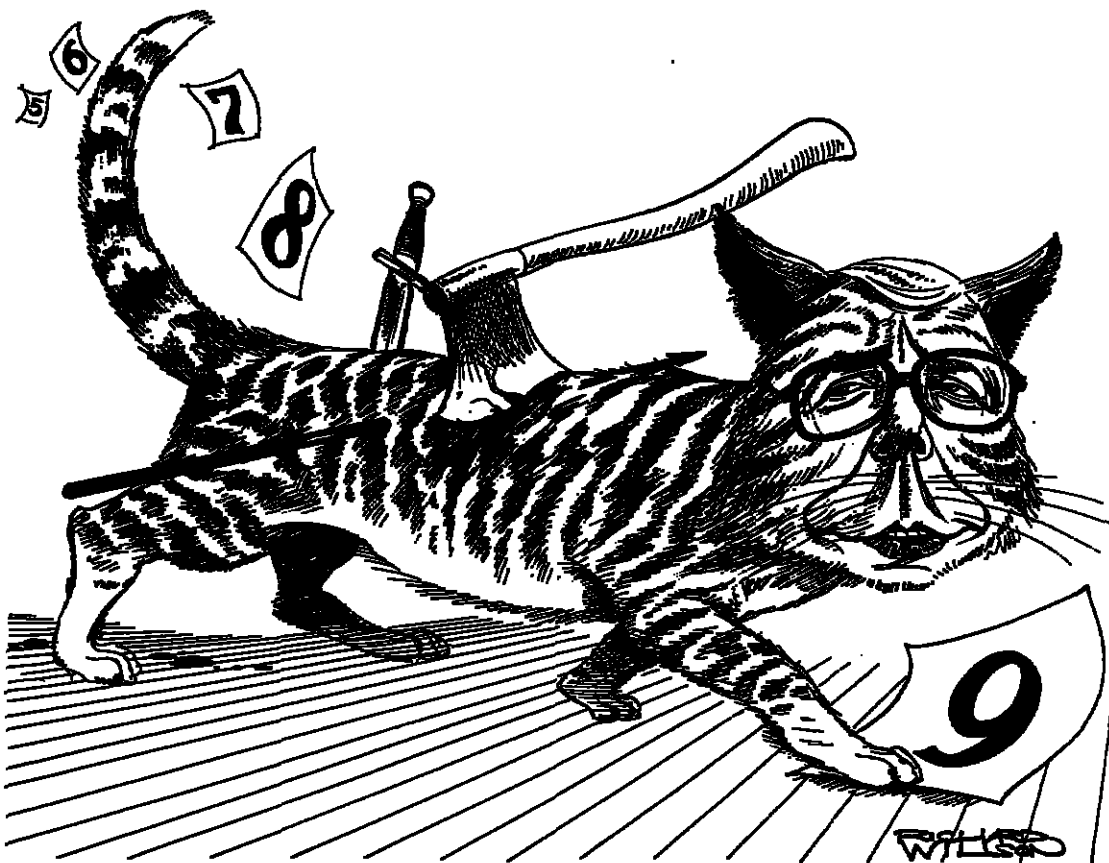
Another intriguing question is why northeast Somerset has, at present, a Labour majority, while Bath has turned Liberal Democrat. The answer for Bath is probably its middle-class character which goes back to Jane Austen, Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding, the great middle-class novelists. It is possible in Bath not to be a Conservative, but it is not in the tradition of the Assembly Rooms or the Royal Baths to be a socialist. Of course, Tony Blair himself might well win Bath; one can imagine him taking one of Jane Austen's young ladies to dinner. But then, he is not a socialist.

Labour support in north Somerset goes back to the days of the local coalfield, now long closed. Almost all the small mining towns and villages, Paulton, Peasedown St John, Timbury, High Littleton, Radstock and Midsummer Norton, remained with or went back to Labour on Thursday, though two of the ex-mining villages, Clutton and Pensford, are in Thomas's ward. Labour won the old Frome division in 1929 and 1945; the mines have gone, but the tradition has not. The television age has tried to create a homogenised national politics without individual local candidates and without individual local traditions. On Thursday Bath and northeast Somerset said no to the Tories, but they also said no to that.

William Rees-Mogg

Eight ways to lose elections

Peter Riddell compares the present Government with history's failures



John Major's Government is not nearly as bad as most of its opponents claim or many of its supporters complain. But its political state is near terminal. It has already fulfilled six of the eight conditions which have in the past led to loss of office. Much can change over the next two years, but there are no obvious remedies. Talk of better presentation mistakes the seriousness of the Tories' plight.

Parties lose power for a mixture of reasons. Usually, they have been deeply split; broken a previous pledge; presided over a devaluation or a crisis in financial markets; alienated many supporters in the country through failure; given an impression of sleaze and scandal; lost the will to govern; lacked direction in policy; and faced an Opposition looking like a credible alternative.

There is no certain formula. But each defeated government has suffered from at least five or six of these eight factors. Those governments which suffered the smallest defeats, such as Atlee's in 1951, Home's in 1964 and Heath's in 1974, have clocked up the smallest number. Atlee's Government, for instance, had not alienated Labour supporters (in 1951 it achieved the party's highest ever vote), but it was split after Bevan's resignation, haunted by the legacy of the 1949 devaluation and had lost momentum, with many senior members exhausted and ill. Home's administration lost because of the scandals at the end of the Macmillan era, fighting at the top of the party then, and because Labour appeared an acceptable alternative under Harold Wilson. Heath's Government was united and determined, but it undertook a U-turn on incomes policy and industrial intervention,

had been undermined by recurrent industrial relations troubles, and had alienated many supporters.

Wilson's Government lost in 1970 because it was seen to have failed with the 1967 devaluation and alienated core supporters by its incomes policy and its botched attempt to change trade union laws. The Callaghan administration's relations with party supporters never recovered from the 1976 financial crisis, while the disruption of the 1978-79 winter of discontent widened the breach and undermined its will to survive.

The lingering death of Balfour's Government, lasting from 1903 until 1905, offers the most worrying parallels for John Major. It was deeply split over tariff reform, had lost direction, faced a revived Opposition, and ultimately gave up office even before facing the electorate.

The present Government comes

out badly from this test. It is deeply split over a key issue (Europe), has broken a pledge to voters (by increasing taxes), has alienated core supporters (by appearing irresolute and disunited), is tarnished by an aura of scandal (a partially unfair result of stories about MPs' personal lives and financial interests), has lost authority after a forced devaluation (Black Wednesday), and faces an Opposition invigorated by the Blair effect. It comes out favourably only in its determination to remain in office and survive.

Nonetheless, it is not as bad a Government as it is widely believed. Rather, Mr Major is having to cope with a near impossible legacy and constraints. Many of the Government's difficulties date back to the

policy errors and splits of the late Thatcher era, which Mr Major has sought to minimise but has been unable to heal. The divisions over Europe are now as deep as they were in Labour a decade ago. The pro- and anti-European factions talk about each other with all the venom of the Labour Right and the Bennites. Some pro-Europeans believe an open split will be unavoidable if the sceptics take control and Michael Portillo becomes leader.

Mr Major is unable to command loyalty, as the defiant return to the whip of the Euro-rebels showed. All he can do is try to balance the factions and avoid an open split. Mr Portillo yesterday skilfully put the case for an appeal based on national sovereignty, but Mr Major cannot move much further towards ruling out British participation in a single currency — apart, perhaps, from reinforcing his

hint of a referendum — without risking resignations by the pro-European heavyweights still in the Cabinet.

There are no obvious ways to reverse these indications of defeat. Attempts to rationalise Thursday's losses by pointing to the fall in turnout — down from roughly 45 to 38 per cent since comparable elections in 1991 — ignores the fact that the drop was smaller in previously Tory-held wards. While many traditional Tories who stayed at home may be loyal at the general election, this may not be sufficient. Public opinion may be volatile, but the Tories are now more vulnerable than at any previous mid-term.

So the responses being suggested over the weekend all sounded hollow. There will no doubt be a new party chairman in the summer reshuffle, but for all his clumsiness, Jeremy Hanley is not responsible for the losses. Dropping or shifting accident-prone ministers may also be necessary, but it is likely to have little impact. Speculation about a change of leader will continue at least until November, but a contest would probably be bitterly divisive, and none of the alternatives looks like doing any better at holding the fractious Tories together.

Promises by ministers to communicate their message better are waffle, as are activists' calls for a return to traditional Tory values. There is no magic formula to improve law and order, as Michael Howard has found. And while there will obviously be tax cuts, their scale will be limited both by the need to cut public borrowing and by pressures to increase, rather than reduce, spending on, say, education. Any attempt to relax fiscal and monetary policy would quickly run into trouble in the markets, as Kenneth Clarke may find this week.

The Tories' problems are not easily curable, because they are long-term and related to the length of time the party has been in office. The strains and stresses of political ageing can be deferred for a time, as Mr Major successfully did in 1992. But they cannot be avoided. There is no such thing as political immortality. The Tories have begun to run out of time.

Some friend

THERE WERE mixed emotions yesterday at Althorp, home of the Spencer clan, over Earl Spencer's successful "sting" to unmask a treacherous "friend" who had been feeding stories to the tabloid press.

The earl, the Princess of Wales's brother, falsely told the man that he was moving to the United States and leaving his trail wife, Victoria. He saw story repeated in early editions of yesterday's *News of the World*, before admitting he had deliberately planted it.

"My wife and I are both sorry that he has sought to gain from the *News of the World* rather than to respect his friendship with my wife," says Spencer. "And also that he has been able, with his boyfriend, to take hospitality repeatedly over the past few years and has repaid us in this shabby way."

The couple became suspicious when details of Victoria's treatment for alcoholism and eating disorders were revealed in the press earlier this year. Although relieved to have flushed out the mole, Earl Spencer told friends that his wife was "naturally upset" to discover that someone in whom she had confided had betrayed her.

Although he refuses to disclose the man's identity, he remarked yesterday: "I am delighted that we have found out who it was. But I am saddened that one of my wife's closest friends has turned out to be a traitor. I don't take any pleasure in catching out people like this."

● The Cambridge Union's first-ever blazer had a sweaty debut on Friday. The naty, high-buttoned



The earl and his wife: successful molehunters

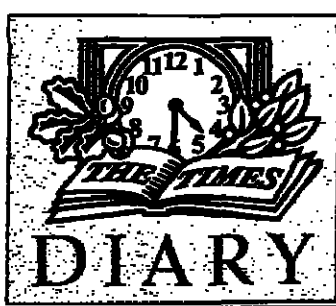
number was fashioned by none other than the Queen's favourite designer, Sir Hardy Amies. But the blazers saw more action than expected. Students had to evacuate the building when a fire alarm was activated by an ill-judged back-swing with a snooker cue.

Al fresco

WARTIME spirit abounded at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday night, when a power cut killed the lights just as the Philharmonia Chorus was turning the last page of Gabrieli's *Magnificat* at the close of the first half of a concert.

Choiristers, backed up by wind and brass players from the Wallace Collection, struggled through manfully to the end of the piece to thunderous applause. Then, anxious not to disappoint the distinguished audience, who included the local MP, Gerry Malone, and Hampshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mary Fagan, the artistic director, David Hill, decided that Bruckner's Mass in E Minor would be performed on the grass in the cathedral close.

"I didn't want to call off the concert just because of a small technical fault," says Hill. "All praise is due to the singers and players, who really entered into the thing with a sense of adventure."



● If, as pundits predict, Jürgen Klinsmann leaves English football this summer to return to his native Germany, fans of the prodigious goalscorer will still be able to worship at his feet in London. Waxwork sculptors at Madame Tussaud's are working on his likeness. The only hitch is to determine his clothes. "He is still making up his mind between his German strip or his Spurs strip," says the waxworks. "We hope he will have decided by October when he is unveiled."

Pass the other

THE longest-serving hotel general manager in London is preparing to hang up his morning suit and bid his last guest farewell. Stephen Koranyi is retiring from the Basil Street Hotel in Knightsbridge after

40 years in a job which has made him a master of diplomacy.

One evening which he recalls as demanding special delicacy was a dinner held by the International Equestrian Federation, at which the Duke of Edinburgh was guest of honour. Koranyi thought it a suitable occasion to open two bottles of Fonseca's 1926, which he duly decanted in readiness.

"But when it came to bring out the port, the decanters had been drained already," he says. "There were some Frenchmen in the party, and they had just swigged the lot as an aperitif. I quickly substituted another, slightly inferior vintage, but I don't think anyone noticed."

Rumbling on

DO NOT be surprised if the ancient vaults of Ely Cathedral reverberate with the sound of trains today. It will be the premiere of *Fantasy: Endure to the End*, an organ piece dedicated to the debt-ridden Eurotunnel. Composer Paul Smith, a professional organ builder and chorister, originally wrote the work as a "piece of muzak to relieve the stress of Chunnel travellers".

One absentee from the concert will be Eurotunnel boss Sir Alastair Morton, who has sent his apol-



Victory on a plate: Sir Kenneth with his treasure

ogies and passed on the score to the National Youth Orchestra, which he chairs. He has reassured Smith that he will be present in spirit. "You have persevered to the end, and I always admire that," says Morton.

Number's up

SIR KENNETH WARREN, the ebullient former Tory MP for Hastings, is finding his loyalty to the party severely tested.

When first elected, he purchased from a friend a car with the ideal

number plate of MP 1066. Then, on leaving the House of Commons, he offered to sell it to his successor, Jacqui Lait. She declined. Sir Ken nursed his hurt feelings awhile until he learnt that Monroe Palmer, a prospective parliamentary candidate with a good chance of winning his old seat at the next election, might be interested. However, Palmer is a Lib Dem.

"I hear he has been sniffing around," says Sir Ken. "But this is a very great political decision for me."

P.H.S



ALL THINGS NEW

Victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 5.2).

Some of the most powerful passages of the Bible are cast in the language of spiritual warfare. Behind some of the ancient creation traditions of Genesis lie stories of the victories of the God who brings order out of chaos, slaying the monster of the deep, the great Leviathan. When the servant of the prophet Elisha fears for their safety in a besieged town, God opens his eyes to see the protecting supernatural army of horses and chariots of fire. At the time of Jesus, the Dead Sea Scrolls depict a cosmic struggle. The *War of the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness*. In the Book of Revelation the apocalyptic drama of war in heaven, the final overthrow of Antichrist and the routing of evil, ends with the vision of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the city of peace, coming down from God out of heaven with the words of promise: "Behold, I make all things new."

That text of promise inspired many at the end of the First World War. It was also the lesson read on the Sunday after VE Day at the services attended by all the Eighth Army in Italy. In London, on VE Day itself, over 35,000 crammed St Paul's in spontaneous thanksgiving and prayer. The victory needed to be related to a greater victory, the war to a greater war. The imagery and symbolism of spiritual warfare, the archetypal struggle of good and evil, the polar opposites of heaven and hell, give meaning to conflicts and battles which are rarely so clearly and purely defined.

Tyrannies and torture are always particular: this nation, at this time, in these circumstances. "Bereft of the category of the demonic," a historian has written, "modern man does not know how to make a judgment about Hitler and Nazism." But the evil of Auschwitz and Belsen and the ideology which justified it in the name of racial purity are of a scale and an enormity that calls into question our low-key domestication of good and evil, and our denial of the demonic.

Earlier theologians were not afraid to speak of the human condition as one of "total depravity". Rightly understood this meant

not that our human nature is black through and through, but that, being fallen, we are flawed in our totality, in all aspects of our being, and therefore that even a war waged against an appalling tyranny and against an evil of such magnitude as that of Nazi Germany, is still a war fought not by saints but by sinners.

The Czech theologian, Josef Hromádka, who returned after the war to live under another tyranny in his native land, wrote that the "real meaning of life is the awareness that we live on the basis of the forgiveness of sins, granted as a gift of the sovereign grace of God". He went on that "we can find no just relationship with the people around us if we do not realize that we need the forgiveness of others, and that we are called to forgive".

Only the God who suffers with us and for us can be the source of such forgiveness, the God of whom the martyred theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that he "allows himself to be pushed out of the world and on to a cross — only so is he with us and saves us." For Bonhoeffer, as for St John, that faith was the victory that overcame the world. From Flossenbürg where he was hanged, shortly before the war ended, he sent a message to his friend, George Bell, Bishop of Chichester. "This is the end — for me the beginning of life".

Every end is a beginning. The end of the First World War, when the guns fell silent, was heralded as a victory to end all wars. In 1945 the mood was less universally optimistic, as Reinhold Niebuhr saw. "The age of absolute national sovereignty is over; but the age of international order under political instruments, powerful enough to regulate the relations of nations and to compose their competing desires, is not yet born." The thankfulness of this anniversary must, therefore, be in part a renewed commitment to find the right international order, in part a new seeking of forgiveness, and in part a deep gratitude for the courage and sacrifice which at such cost overcame a terrible evil.

PRESIDENT CHIRAC

Now for a real break with France's Socialist legacy

Past and future meet in France today. For the first time in 21 years, France once again has a Gaullist President. For the first time, Western Europe has a head of state whose term of office will outlast the century. For Jacques Chirac, who won by rekindling some of the social radicalism of early Gaullism, his victory is the culmination of a warring of France conducted over nearly two decades. It is very much a personal triumph, not least over a mercurial and restive public persona which tripped him twice before. He has also had to contend with the dismissive scorn of his opponents on the French Right, which once again came close to self-destructing and handing the keys of the Elysée to his Socialist rival, Lionel Jospin.

But even as he savours his long-sought triumph, M Chirac knows that he embraces a surly bride, whose trust in him is qualified and who has no plans for a honeymoon. The *franc* *société* which he diagnosed and has promised to heal was all too vividly demonstrated during the campaign. Never in the Fifth Republic have so many French people given their first choice to extremist fringe parties, or so few voted in the first round for the ultimate victor. France is torn between those who have profited from a doubling in household wealth over the past 25 years and those who feel excluded from this prosperity. In that sense, M Chirac was right to argue that Left and Right had become obsolete terms. But dominant themes of this campaign were "social exclusion" and poverty. To defeat the Socialists, the Mayor of Paris invaded their traditional territory.

That will complicate his task now. M Chirac has promised a clean break not just

with the scandal-ridden Mitterrand years, but with a bureaucratic and remote style of government that he blames for alienating French voters from the political Establishment. After 14 years of Mitterrand, change has been the theme of an exceptionally emotional campaign. Voters realised at the last that the new broom held out by M Jospin would have been more likely simply to stir up old dust. As Jacques Delors, M Jospin's most influential supporter, approvingly noted, he would have "returned French socialism to its roots" — a world of state subsidies and industrial corporatism, heavy taxation and social regulation.

M Chirac is good news for France because he is the most likely of the mainstream politicians to make the changes France really needs. These are tax and welfare reforms, a bonfire of red tape, and the deregulation of labour markets without which France cannot hope to make much dent in its socially crippling rate of unemployment. But because M Chirac's campaign rhetoric has emphasised protection for the weak rather than opportunity and free enterprise, the reforms that France requires will have a stormy passage. The strikes and street protests of recent weeks may be only a mild precursor of what lies ahead.

M Chirac has promised to make economic growth his priority; but he has also pledged allegiance to the *franc* *fort* policy which drags the French currency upwards in the wake of the German mark, and interest rates with it. He has a gambler's instinct: he should go with growth. If that is a first step towards refashioning France's vision of its sovereign destiny within post Cold War Europe, so much the better.

UNFAIR DISMISSAL

Carling must be reinstated as captain without delay

Try as one might, it is difficult to suppress the use of such words as mean-spirited, dull-witted and senseless when describing the decision of the Rugby Football Union to strip Will Carling, OBE, of the captaincy of the England rugby team. Of course it was injudicious of Carling to use locker-room language about those who run the game: he should, as captain, have known better the pitfalls of public irreverence. But in their over-reaction to a phrase uttered at an unguarded moment, the RFU's administrators have ensured that many more observers will now regard Carling's pithy words on television as fair comment.

Carling's removal as captain was the product of the RFU's pique, hubris and hypocrisy. He has for some time now been a thorn in the side of the game's Establishment: his repeated and articulate calls for a review of the anachronistic manner in which players are rewarded, and his criticism of rugby's fraying amateur ideals, have not endeared him to the men who chose to dismiss and demean him on Saturday. Yet in dismissing him, Messrs Easby, Bishop, Bromage, Beer, Richardson, Motum and Wood of the RFU demeaned themselves and the game.

Carling was wrong to use the words he did. But he wasted no time in saying so himself. In a dignified apology to the RFU: "If I have offended any members, I apologise unreservedly, and would like them to know

that I will not allow myself to be put in this situation again." Yet the RFU gave Carling no chance to explain his conduct: the most successful captain in the history of English rugby was demoted without so much as a hearing. Those who act ostensibly for rugby's Olympian essence were blind on this occasion to the dictates of natural justice.

What makes the RFU's decision particularly ill-conceived is its timing. The World Cup is due to begin in South Africa in less than three weeks. England had, until Saturday, a powerful, confident and cohesive team — they would have started as one of the favourites to win. There can have been few England squads better than this one; and some have even argued that this is the finest collection of players ever to wear the England jersey. All that could now change.

The England players have come out publicly in support of their wronged captain. Dean Richards, widely tipped as the RFU's choice as Carling's replacement, has stated that he will not take the job if it were offered to him: so has Rob Andrew. The debate on the game's priorities has simmered for years: the Carling affair has now caused it to rage fiercely. The RFU must come rapidly to its senses and reinstate Carling as captain at today's meeting: nothing else would be acceptable. The administrators should then begin to think how they should undo the wider damage they have done.

Churchill papers row 'bewildering'

From Professor Emeritus William Manchester

Sir, The controversy over the sale of Sir Winston Churchill's papers to the British nation, with proceeds going to members of his family, is bewildering (letters, April 28, 29, May 3). One British historian is actually quoted in a US newspaper as labeling the transaction "just tacky".

One wonders why it is even newsworthy. When out of office, Churchill, a professional writer, supported his household with his pen. His literary estate was his property. He had every reason, both moral and legal, to expect that title to it would pass on to his survivors through the trust fund which he established before his death.

The sum of £12.5 million, however raised, seems hardly excessive. The collection could be sold for far more than that in the United States, but that would have raised a genuine storm, which would have been justifiable. The papers should remain in England, accessible to scholars at Churchill College, Cambridge.

Some critics believe that they should have been donated to the country. That has a familiar ring. Authors are forever being told that they should give their work to society, that to expect money in return is, well, tacky.

The origin of this presumption lies in a misapprehension of the word "gifted" — the belief that talent is literally a gift, which the writer should pass along. The fact is that writing is very hard work, and that here, as elsewhere, the laborer is worthy of his hire. Surely any working man should be able to understand that.

Faithfully,
WILLIAM MANCHESTER
(Writer-in-residence),
Wesleyan University,
Middletown, Connecticut 06459.
May 4.

School transport

From Mr David Jones

Sir, Some of your comments (leading article, April 28) on the proposal to end free transport to Essex selective schools are well made. As a headmaster of an Essex comprehensive school I am aware that the loss of free transport could lead to the selective schools taking pupils from a much more confined area. If this were to happen it would turn many thriving comprehensive schools into secondary modern establishments.

There is, however, another important principle at stake here. At present, parents in England and Wales who choose to send their child to a selective school are supported by free transport. Parents who choose to send their child to a particular comprehensive because they happen to support the ethos of that school are not supported. For parents living beyond the three-mile limit who choose to send their child to schools other than the one prescribed by the local education authority, there is no free transport.

Some of the pupils at my school have successfully passed the 11-plus examination and have gained places at a selective school, but on reflection the parents have decided to send them to a mixed comprehensive school. In making this choice they are forced to pay up to £20 per week on public transport for the privilege.

The principle at stake is this: that if parents of more able pupils are supported by free transport in their choice of a selective school because they feel that that school will offer their child the most appropriate education, then surely the same support should be offered to parents choosing a particular comprehensive school for equally good reasons.

The current situation fails to do this and, in my view, elitist and indefensible. If we believe in parental choice, and I most certainly do, it should be offered on an equitable basis.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID JONES (Headmaster),
The Philip Morant School,
Rembrandt Way,
Colchester Road,
Colchester, Essex.
May 2.

Railings anomaly

From Mr R. J. Garrod

Sir, HM Customs and Excise recently rejected my request that the cost of restoring railings to the front of the building in which I own a flat should be zero-rated for VAT. This is usually allowed on alterations to listed buildings. Customs maintain that railings are not part of the building.

This is apparently inconsistent with the attitude of English Heritage, which is providing a grant. The work is a replacement for some ugly concrete pillars and low walls which themselves replaced the original railings and their stone settings. The railings were removed as scrap metal in the Second World War; the stones were destroyed by a land mine. One of my neighbours, who remembers railings being removed from her house during the war, feels less than fairly treated at being asked to contribute towards restoration.

At a time of celebrations for victory, a tax on those who attempt to remedy war's ravages seems harsh.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. GARROD,
Top Flat, 14 The Crescent,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
May 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Thoughts and memories 50 years on

From Mr C. K. Field

Sir, My father died in Vienna in the *Kristallnacht* (Crystal Night) anti-Jewish attacks of November 1938. I saw active service with HM Forces.

This weekend's celebrations will concentrate on the Allies' Victory in Europe and remembrance of those who did not return. In the Europe of today let us not forget our German friends and extend our sympathy and prayers to those who still mourn the wasted lives of husbands, sons and fathers, who died without the consolation of a just cause.

Yours faithfully,
C. K. FIELD,
21 Keld Head Orchard,
Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire.
May 3.

From Mrs B. P. Joseph

Sir, To some people the celebrations arranged for Bank Holiday Monday may be merely a cloud of hot air and myths accompanied by outbursts of clichés about which we should be warned by the Met Office (Mr Sharon's letter, May 4).

But thousands like me will find that same cloud will warm the cockles of our hearts (pace Mr Sharon), as we remember and re-live the joy of VE Day, 1945.

Yours etc.
PRISCILLA JOSEPH,
The Old Nursery, Downton Road,
Stoneyhouse, Gloucestershire.
May 4.

From Mr Thomas Whipham

Sir, Travelling down to London by train from Scotland on VE-Day there was no great excitement, only relief at the anticipated announcement of the ending of hostilities. At Peterborough a porter walked along the platform almost casually shouting out the news of the German surrender and the ending of the war. The only reaction in my compartment was from a young girl in the corner seat who leaned across to her mother to say: "I hope the shops won't be closed tomorrow — I really must buy that hat."

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS WHIPHAM,
73 Clifton Hill, St John's Wood, NW8.
May 4.

From Lady Alethea Eliot

Sir, The idea of having a two-minute silence on VE-Day (report and leading article, April 27) is excellent, and puts the commemorations into the right context. But only if it is described as a remembrance of all those who lost their lives in the war of 1939-45.

This is not in any way to diminish this great sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces, but to include the countless numbers of civilians (in or out of uniform) who died, most of whom contributed to the war effort, and so to the victory.

Yours faithfully,
ALETHEA ELIOT,
The Old House, Kingsland,
Leominster, Herefordshire.

From Mr J. A. L. Hammond

Sir, In December 1944, my father was killed in action in Holland, and I am therefore reading your series of reproductions from *The Times* with mixed emotions. The feelings I have are now ones of sadness, when I compare the headlines on Thursday May 3, 1945, "Germans surrender in Italy, nearly 1,000,000 men lay down arms" and "London tram and bus strike, 4,700 men cease work".

My conclusion from this is that whilst my father was giving his young life for the freedom of his country, this freedom was being abused by trade

unionists, who had nothing better to do than to go on strike over the introduction of summer schedules.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFERY HAMMOND,
8 Penny Lane,
Warren Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk.
May 4.

From Mrs Ziata McFarlane

Sir, There is something very wrong with British diplomacy.

We have been told that President Milosevic of Serbia could play a pivotal role in a peace settlement in Yugoslavia, by his co-operation. Therefore, in place of, or as well as, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, could not Milosevic have been invited to our VE-Day celebrations, despite sanctions on Serbia, as a gesture of goodwill and reconciliation?

After all, it was Serbia which was a staunch British ally in both world wars, while Croatia, in both instances, was supporting and collaborating with Germany, as it does to this day.

Yours faithfully,
Z. MCFARLANE,
110 Whitaker Road, Derby.
May 4.

From Mr Richard Wilson

Sir, The men of the Merchant Navy were among the bravest of the brave and without their sustained determination in the face of dreadful casualties, Britain would have been starved and its defences crippled.

We, in active service — I was in the Royal Navy — could not only shoot back, we often shot first: a satisfaction denied to the Merchant Navy.

Yours etc.
R. O'B WILSON,
The Globe, Farnham,
Nr Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
May 4.

From Mr Alan Brooke Turner

Sir, May 1 remind Dr Jesper Trier and others in Denmark who feel that their country has never adequately acknowledged the contribution of the United Kingdom to victory over Nazism (letter, May 4) that soon after liberation Denmark expressed its thanks by inviting British and Allied servicemen from the forces in Germany to enjoy a week's leave in Denmark, usually as guests in the homes of Danish families.

Those who like myself were the beneficiaries of this generous gesture saw it as a prompt, spontaneous and greatly appreciated expression of Danish gratitude.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BROOKE TURNER,
Poultons, Moor Lane,
Dormansland, Nr Lingfield, Surrey.
May 4.

From Mr C. F. Elias

Sir, If we should not crow about winning the war, may we be allowed to rejoice that we did not lose it?

Yours thankfully,
C. F. ELIAS,
4 Ashburton Road,
West Kirby, Wirral.
May 4.

From Mr Michael Davison

Sir, For one 13-year-old there was no doubt about the most momentous feature of VE-Day.

My diary entry for May 8, 1945 says: "V.E. Day. Cycled to school but no school. Came home."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVISON,
5 St Albans Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
May 4.

Pioneering rockets

From Mr Charles W. Lloyd

Sir, The article about the German V2 rockets (May 2) makes scant reference to the contribution by the British in 1945 to the subsequent development of interplanetary space technology.

Under the direction of Major-General Sandy Cameron, who commanded the Air Defence Division at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces, the British, with the "co-operation" of captured German V2 units, built, fuelled and fired five V2 rockets assembled from material and equipment recovered from all over Germany, including the infamous factory at Nordhausen. The operation, known as "Backfire", launched three rockets successfully from Cuxhaven into the North Sea.

As a result the British Special Projects Operations Group, as it was called, produced a complete set of instructions of how to assemble, test and launch the V2 in the form of a five-volume handbook, the like of which had not even existed in Germany.

Years later, Richard S. Lewis, a reporter for the US Army's *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, who had seen the launchings, wrote that the Cuxhaven operation "marked a transition point in the development of rocket technology in the West which in the United States evolved into an interplanetary space technology" (*Aerospace Historian*, published in the US, March 1978).

Yours faithfully,
C. W. LLOYD,
(GSO II, Special Projects Operations Group, 1945-46),
16 Tavistock, Devonshire Place,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Automatic dialling

From Mr R. G. Maling

Sir, I am not happy with BT's reply (letter, May 4) to Mr Weston's sensible suggestion for the automatic insertion of the extra "1" into the new telephone codes (letter, May 1). Until the "1" is joined by a "2" (eventually) the "1" could surely be added automatically.

A good customer-sensitive approach would have provided both the technical solution and the accompanying message: "You have omitted the '1' but this has been added automatically to save you redialling."

Yours faithfully,
R. G. MALING,
Windfall, Butlers Cross,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
May 5.

Calls to reinstate Carling as captain

From Mr David Griffith-Jones

Sir, The president of the Rugby Football Union, Dennis Easby, has suggested that Will Carling could not be allowed to continue as England captain as his comments revealed that he had no confidence in the RFU's committee and that he had thereby disabled himself from representing English rugby.

Presumably confidence in the committee will be a prerequisite for any other candidate for the post of captain. But surely no candidate will feel able honestly to declare that he satisfies such a criterion.

How could any of the current squad of players agree to support a committee which, through its officers, has acted so precipitately and so insensitively in stripping Will Carling of the captaincy without even allowing him the opportunity to defend himself?

By depriving him of that right (even after he had, sensibly, apologised for his injudicious remarks), the committee has shown that it is quite unfit to govern the sport of rugby union.

Yours faithfully,
D. GRIFFITH-JONES,
Devereux Chambers,
Devereux Court, WC2.
May 7.

From Major-General Griff Caldwell

Sir, By their removal of Will Carling, the general committee of the RFU has in one ill-judged action dealt a severe blow to England's chances of winning the World Cup, made themselves look stupid in the eyes of the rugby-playing fraternity throughout the world, and probably lost the services in the long term of one of the most intelligent, articulate and proficient rugby players ever with proven leadership qualities.

In so doing they have demonstrated clearly that the sentiments behind Will Carling's remarks were probably true even if the words used might have been better chosen.

Let us hope that the players in the squad will stand together and express their view, through their coach, the admirable Jack Rowell, that they wish to go to the World Cup with Will Carling as their captain.

Yours sincerely,
GRIFF CALDWELL,
Le Courtil Tomar, Rue des Pres,
St Pierre du Bois, Guernsey, CI.
May 7.

From Mr Richard Gregg

Sir, Let us hope that in the nick of time rugby's powers-that-be realise that the only way to save their credibility is to accept with grace Will Carling's apology.

Like the Old Contemptibles, they might even learn to glory in their new-found soubriquet.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREGG,
27 Woodhill Road,
Portsmouth, Bristol.
May 6.

Mid-life dip

From Miss V. F. Gooding

Sir, I am one of those exhausted working mothers described by Libby Purves (April 26). As a senior executive in a large company, I know I am the only one among my colleagues to be sorting laundry at 6am, food shopping at 9pm (just before closing), and returning from business trips at unsocial hours so I can see my children.

All the other executives have a "manager" at home, who packs their suitcases, plans holidays and social events, and looks after all the household and childcare responsibilities.

But when I feel I am about to "lie down in a ditch and die", I gain some comfort from the thought that not only do I have a well-paid, exciting, and intellectually satisfying job in a prestigious company, I am very fortunate to have a job at all when so many people do not. I have a choice — and I prefer to be exhausted.

Yours faithfully,
VAL GOODING,
22 Spencer Road,
East Molesey, Surrey.
May 1.

Another war recalled

From Mr John Murphy

Sir, Next year sees the 40th anniversary of Suez. Isn't it time that a medal was awarded to all those who took part in that operation? We did the job asked of us: why no recognition?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MURPHY
(ex-"B" Company, 2 Para),
6 Roger Road, Burton Grange,
Barnsley, South Yorkshire.
May 6.

Testing times

From Mr J. R. Chilton

Sir, I think you should be aware that if you continue to publish examples of science questions for 14-year-olds (and probably questions on any other subject for this age group), I shall have to change my newspaper.

I buy *The Times* for information and entertainment, not humiliation.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. CHILTON,
Little Manor,
Tackley, Oxfordshire.
May 5.

OBITUARIES

MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK

Mikhail Botvinnik, world chess champion, 1948-57, 1958-60, 1961-63, died in Moscow on May 5 aged 83. He was born in St Petersburg on August 17, 1911.

MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK was one of the greatest chess players of his generation, winning the world title three times and the Soviet chess championship seven times between 1931 and 1952. He was ranked alongside Emanuel Lasker, José Capablanca, and Alexander Alekhine. Chess aficionados will, no doubt, continue to debate which of them was the supreme champion, although Botvinnik has never lacked supporters. His career overlapped with that of all three; but the powers of Lasker and Capablanca were beginning to fail before Botvinnik reached his full strength. Indeed, the eagerly awaited match between Botvinnik and Alekhine, arranged for 1946, was prevented by the sudden death of Alekhine.

Instead, a five-round tournament was held between Botvinnik, Vassily Smyslov, Samuel Rashevsky, Paul Keres and the ex-world champion, Max Euwe of The Netherlands, then reckoned the five leading contestants. This was won by Botvinnik in the most convincing style, with 14 points out of 20 (Smyslov being second with 11). In fact, such was his superiority that he won the tournament with four rounds to go. Botvinnik thus became world champion at the age of 36 and was to remain in that position, with two short intervals during which he lost to and regained his title from Smyslov and Mikhail Tal, for the next 15 years.

Mikhail Moiseyevich Botvinnik was the son of a dental technician and trained as an electrical engineer, a field in which he shone. His talent for chess did him no harm and was seen by Stalin as a positive advertisement for the Soviet Union. For his work during the Second World War on electric power stations in the Urals he was decorated with the Order of the Badge of Honour and from 1955 was a senior scientist at the Soviet Research Institute for Electrodynamics. Thus, though the greater part of his life was devoted to chess, he was, like Lasker, a man of recognised distinction in a wider sphere; and this may have accounted for the fact that both of them maintained themselves at the height of their powers for many years — Botvinnik until he was well over 50 and Lasker when he was nearer 70 than 60.

Another reason was their shared iron determination combined with self-discipline. This is the *sine qua non* of all champions at any sport but Lasker and Botvinnik had it to a pre-eminent degree. In Botvinnik's case, his tough fibre was demonstrated by the way in which he twice recovered his title, the second time when over the age of 50.



His first match in defence of his title was against Bronstein in 1951 and he was only able to retain it, as holder, by drawing 12-12. The same thing happened in 1954, in his first match against Smyslov. Then in 1957 he lost his title to Smyslov (12½-9½), only to recover it, after a stern struggle going to 23 games, the following year. After he had been badly beaten by the young genius, Tal, in 1961 few of the experts gave him much chance in the return match. Botvinnik, however, confounded them by winning as decisively as Tal had done, the score being 13-8 in his favour.

This match illustrated perhaps better than any other another facet of Botvinnik's genius as a match-player: his ability to take advantage of his opponent's psychological weaknesses as well as his technical deficiencies. In the first match Tal, a natural combative genius with an urge to attack at all costs, had thrown the champion completely out of his stride. In the second Botvinnik, who prepared with infinite care for all his matches, contrived to take all the heat out of the game.

With White he played very quietly, attempting little with each move and content to exchange Queens at the earliest opportunity. Time and again he then outplayed his opponent from level and apparently dead positions. Later with Black he abandoned his favourite French Defence, well suited

to an attacking opponent, and concentrated on the Caro-Kahn, which gives few winning chances to Black but limits drastically White's opportunities for aggression. Tal attempted to circumvent this by adopting an unorthodox and discredited line of attack and, through persisting with it, played into Botvinnik's hands.

In fairness to Tal, he was already in poor health; nobody can tell what the result of the match would have been had he been fit. But that the match, as played, was a tactical and psychological triumph for Botvinnik there is no doubt. And his extraordinarily successful record against Paul Keres — over the period of his tenure of the title easily the most consistent of his rivals and his equal, if not superior, in beauty and style — was similarly achieved by imposing his personality on his more artistic and highly-strung opponent.

Botvinnik was not, like Alekhine, a great innovator. Indeed, his opening repertoire was somewhat limited, though he made up in depth of knowledge for any lack of variety. His middle-game play, however, was original, profound and extremely courageous. Like Alekhine, but unlike Capablanca, he did not mind thin ice. His best and most characteristic games, perhaps, were slow-moving, massive attacks built up gradually by cumulative pressure on both sides of the board, until his opponent's game

collapsed as if beneath an avalanche. But he feared no type of game, since he played all equally well; and his end-game technique was superb.

In appearance and manner Botvinnik was friendly, quiet and somewhat formal. As with the traditional Russian masters, his chessboard manners were impeccably courteous. He made a scholarly and rather austere impression, and there was about him an air of natural gravity and authority. The acknowledged leader of so many years, he did for chess both behind and beyond the Iron Curtain much what another world champion of intellectual distinction and personality, Max Euwe, did for chess in Western Europe.

Finally, in 1963, Botvinnik lost the world championship for the third time against a challenge from the Armenian Grandmaster, Tigran Petrosian. With his world championship days over Botvinnik continued to obtain outstanding results in Olympiads, Soviet team events and international tournaments, including first prize at the Hastings Tournament of 1966. In 1970 he announced his retirement from active play and dedicated his final years to working on computer chess programs.

Mikhail Botvinnik married Gayane Aranova in 1935 and had one daughter.

IVO TONDER

Ivo Tonder, Czech pilot, died in Healey-on-Thames on May 4 aged 82. He was born in Prague on April 16, 1913.



A FOUNDING member of No 312 "Czech" Squadron, RAF, Ivo Tonder was shot down after two years of combat flying in the Battle of Britain and in fighter sweeps over occupied Europe. He then participated in the epic — and tragic — "Great Escape" from Stalag Luft III, narrowly escaping death and surviving to return to his native land.

He had led a life of extraordinary variety and vicissitude even before coming to this country. Born under the aegis of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he had served in the Air Force of the nascent Czechoslovak Republic, in the French Foreign Legion and then in the Free Czech Forces before escaping from the Continent to join the RAF in 1940.

He was soon to be on the move again when the Communists subverted Czechoslovakia's legitimate postwar Government. Making his way, yet again, to Britain he made his home here for the last 45 years of his life.

Born in Prague, capital of Bohemia and one of the finest cities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Ivo Tonder came from a family of energy and talent. His grandfather had been a legal adviser to Austrian royalty and founded the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. His father, too, was a lawyer, his mother a painter. Indeed, she had married her husband on the express condition that she be allowed to travel and paint for six months of the year. Ivo and his younger brother often accompanied her on her summer jaunts to Port Aven.

Before that, as a five-year-old, he had stood on a balcony in Wenceslas Square and witnessed the inauguration of the Czechoslovak Republic by Tomas Masaryk. He was educated at schools in Prague and Dijon before attending Prague's Charles University. Developing the habit of swapping faculties as the storm-cloud of examinations approached, he was able to prolong a carefree student life.

He next did his military service in the Czechoslovak Air Force, training as a pilot. But the brief life of the young state was already drawing to a close. In March 1939 the Germans broke the Munich agreement and marched into Prague. Tonder said goodbye to his father and fled from Czechoslovakia, eventually arriving, via Hungary and Turkey, in Beirut where he joined the French Foreign Legion.

He subsequently transferred to the Free Czech Forces based in Agde, France. But the German menace pursued him

here, too, and with France falling soon afterwards, he made his way to Spain and thence to England. Here Czech pilots were being formed into RAF units and he joined the second Czech squadron, No 312, which was equipped with Hurricanes in August 1940. It was later to be re-equipped with Spitfires. With No 312, Tonder took part in the latter stages of the Battle of Britain and when, in 1941, the RAF went on to the offensive with fighter sweeps over occupied France, he flew on these, too.

In June 1942 he was shot down during a dogfight over the Channel, baled out and was picked up by a German float plane. Taken into captivity, he was sent to Stalag Luft III at Sagan in Silesia. There he joined the escape organisation and became one of the principal tunnellers in the mass breakout which became immortalised as the Great Escape. On the night of March 24-25, 1944, after two years of activity which had created a tunnel 365ft long under the camp's perimeter wire, he was among 76 RAF, Commonwealth and Allied POWs who escaped into the woods surrounding Stalag Luft III.

Hitler was incensed. Large forces were diverted from other duties to round up the escapees. Tonder got as far as Czechoslovakia before he was eventually arrested on a train, interrogated by the Gestapo and imprisoned for eight months in solitary confinement in Prague. Ironically, this saved him from the tragic fate of many of his fellow escapees, 50 of whom were shot on Hitler's orders.

Tried in Prague, Tonder

was himself sentenced to death and sent to Colditz to await execution. But Colditz was liberated in April 1945 before the sentence could be carried out and Tonder was freed with his fellow inmates. Besides several British campaign medals, Tonder was awarded the Croix de Guerre by France and had four Czech War Crosses among a number of other decorations.

Returning to London he married his wife Jirina who had been serving with the WAAF. They subsequently went back to Prague where they found that many of those who had served during the war with the Allies were cold-shouldered by the new regime. They, therefore, bought a farm at Marianaske Lazne (Marienbad) and for the next year or two lived a simple life away from the capital.

When the Communists seized power in 1948 the Tonder family was separated to England, though they were compelled to leave their children, Ivan and Petra, with guardians. Eighteen months later the boy and girl were smuggled out by CIA operatives via Germany.

In England Tonder first worked for an uncle who was in the fabric printing business and this led him to set up his own textile printing firm. Five days before he died, he received acknowledgement of his services to Czechoslovakia when President Vaclav Havel made him a major-general of the Czech armed forces.

Ivo Tonder was a man of indomitable spirit with an unquenchable sense of optimism. He leaves his widow Jirina and his son and daughter.

KENNETH MACKENZIE

Kenneth Mackenzie, CMG, former British diplomat, died on April 24 aged 84. He was born on April 28, 1910.



KENNETH MACKENZIE had the questionable distinction of once being interviewed by the master spy Kim Philby.

It happened shortly after the Suez crisis when Mackenzie, then an Assistant Secretary at the Board of Trade, was touring the Middle East as part of an intensive effort by Whitehall to repair British export links with the Arab world. At Beirut he agreed to an interview with Philby, then working as a journalist in the region, who was interested in writing a feature on the same theme. Mackenzie, as surprised as anyone when news broke some years later of his interlocutor's defection, remarked wryly in his memoirs that his words were no doubt read more avidly in Moscow than they were at home.

Mackenzie was by that time a highly experienced civil servant, specialising in commerce and industry. He went on to become commercial counsellor in the Stockholm Embassy in the late 1960s, when he was deeply involved in an export drive throughout Scandinavia. He helped to organise a successful British week in Stockholm which was opened by Princess Alexandra in 1968, then a Londoner, later in Gothenburg 12 months later and a number of smaller exhibitions in the Baltic ports.

It was for this work that he was appointed CMG in 1970. Yet he had started his adult life as an engineer. Kenneth Edward Mackenzie was born in Bengal. His father was a Dundee businessman who had left Britain for Calcutta to work in the jute industry, and his mother was the daughter of a British tea-planter in Assam.

Mackenzie started in school in India, continued briefly in Australia, when his family were there on a long leave, then attended a succession of schools in Britain before leaving at the age of 16 to work for three years in the engineering industry. But he studied in his spare time and won his way to University College London, where he took a first-class degree in civil and mechanical engineering. After two years working for the Institute of Civil Engineers, however, he

became disenchanted with the job opportunities available at that time and joined the Foreign Service instead, specialising in overseas trade.

He was serving in Brussels when the Second World War broke out. On leaving in the path of the German *Blitzkrieg*, he was driving through France to join his wife, who had been evacuated with other embassy wives to Paris when the rapidly advancing enemy caught up with him and he found himself under arrest.

Mackenzie spent most of 1940-41 interned in Germany, initially in a prison cell in Cologne. On eventually being released as part of a diplomatic exchange, he was posted to Tehran, with the task of supporting the Iranian economy and trying to keep open the precious land route to Moscow — one of only two recognised ways to get supplies through to the Soviet Union.

He was also involved, if only on the fringe, in the 1943 Tehran conference between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Mackenzie was a trade commissioner in India throughout the turbulent period before and after partition. In 1947, then in Singapore during the Emergency when British troops were fighting communist insurgents in Malaya, but he found time to compile an economic survey of Malaya which became a standard reference for British businessmen seeking to export to the region.

He eventually retired in 1970 at the end of his tour of duty in Stockholm, only to be re-engaged four years later as a counsellor (investment) in Copenhagen. From there he operated throughout Scandinavia, trying to attract more foreign investment to the UK. After retiring for the second time in 1975, however, he

contented himself with writing his memoirs and doing part-time clerking in court for his solicitor son. The Windsor Horse Show was among the local events with which he became involved.

Kenneth Mackenzie is survived by his wife Phyllis, a professional painter, and their son.

Dr Berthold Hermann, physician, died in London on April 10 aged 93. He was born in Romania in 1902.

BEKT HERMANN was not only a highly successful doctor but also a great survivor. While fleeing from the Nazis during the Second World War he served for a time as personal physician to King Zog of Albania and the Albanian Prime Minister before settling first in Scotland and then in London.

Berthold Hermann went to Vienna in the early 1920s to study medicine and remained in Austria after qualifying, working as a physician in the Austrian hospital service. By 1938 he was a married man with two children and a highly successful career. But when the Anschluss took place his position became extremely precarious because he was Jewish.

Fortunately for him, one of his patients was a high-rank-

ing member of the Austrian Nazi Party whom Hermann had cured of syphilis, using one of the then new sulphonamide drugs. This patient warned the doctor that his arrest was imminent and that he should leave Austria immediately.

There followed for the Hermann family an difficult journey via Yugoslavia to Albania where they settled in the capital Tirana. Here Hermann obtained employment at the hospital. It soon became known that a well qualified Viennese doctor was available and within a few weeks Hermann was nursing among his patients both the Prime Minister and King Zog.

At this time the foresight of his sister and brother-in-law, Dr and Mrs Arpad Sachs, came to his aid. They, too, were both doctors who had been successful general practitioners in Austria. After Hitler came to power in Germany they decided to leave Vienna and settled in Edinburgh in



1934. When Hermann left Vienna, Dr Sachs registered him as a medical student at the University of Edinburgh and swore an affidavit to the effect that he would be responsible for the Hermann family's support. In this way the Home Office was persuaded to grant a visa.

However, as the family was preparing to leave Albania,

the Italians were preparing to invade. The Hermanns' possessions were by then in a large crate on the quayside at the port of Durres waiting to be shipped to Scotland and the crate was used as a defensive bulwark by the Albanian soldiers trying to defend the port and never reached Scotland.

However, Hermann and his family made the long train journey across Europe in 1939, passing through Paris on Bastille Day before arriving in the UK. Bert Hermann then set about learning English and qualifying as a doctor. Having done so, he was promptly interned as an enemy alien for a short while on the Isle of Man. Upon his release and for the rest of the war — he worked as a hospital doctor in Dumfries.

After the war he joined the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and spent over a year in Germany, where the devastated civilian centres of population were desperately

in need of German-speaking doctors. From 1947 until his retirement in 1986 at the age of 84 he practised in partnership in Finchley. The highlight of his period of his life was when his oldest daughter Thilla joined him as a partner in the practice. She died tragically young in 1973.

When his wife Ada died in 1979 it was widely assumed that he would retire but this, too, was something he was able to cope with.

After his retirement he continued to attend ward rounds and medical meetings until failing hearing and sight finally made him give this up. He was a jovial, warm and compassionate man whose selfless devotion to his patients endeared him to them.

He was also a bon vivant who regularly partook of the kind of rich food he constantly advised others to give up or at least cut down upon. He is survived by his daughter Eva.

Nature notes

GREY wagtails are nesting on ledges behind waterfalls, and feeding on aquatic insects on the rocks in the stream below. Seen from a bridge as they flit away, they look slate-grey, but when they turn round they reveal a brilliant yellow breast. Garden warblers are back from central Africa. Their song is generally quieter and more sustained than the blackcaps, but it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish between the two voices, and even harder to see the singers in the new, dense foliage. Buntings, unlike these two warblers, display themselves when they sing: reed buntings deliver their scratchy notes from the tops of small willows, while the plump corn buntings sit on telephone wires.

floating seed from the willows and tiny parachutes from the wind-stirred dandelion clocks. Field horsetails flourish on neglected land: they have a pointed brown cone at the top, and each of the joints in their pink stem is enclosed in a jagged sheath. DJM

The New Times Nature Diary by Derwent May has just been published in a paperback edition by Robson Books at £6.99.



The grey wagtail

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines
CAPTAIN R J K Mervin - MOD Bath 20.10.95.
COMMANDER I M Crabtree - Dryad 30.11.95; J W Hall - MOD London 8.9.95; D J Knight - Dartmouth BRNC 5.11.95.
MAJOR J Martin - HQ RM 19.9.95; H Thomas - HQ 3 COO BDE 24.11.95.
Retirements
CAPTAIN I W Craig - 6.7.95; J M Dobson - 6.7.95; C J Freeman - 6.7.95.
COMMANDER P G Blanchford - 10.7.95.
The Army
COLONEL A McNeil - 10 MOD, 8.5.95.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J R Howard-Williams - 10 MOD, 8.5.95; A M P Jell - 10 MOD, 8.5.95; Z S S I Noble - 8.5.95; to BHM SANG SAUDI AKARIA, 11.5.95.
Retirements
BRIGADIER D A Cranston - Late AAC, 14.5.95.
Royal Air Force
AIR MARSHAL D Cousins to be Air Member for Personnel/Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Personnel and Training Command from 1.5.95 in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Wilson.
AIR COMMODORE D A Hyatt to be Air Vice-Marshal and to be Air Officer Commanding No 38 Group

from 21.4.95 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal D Cousins.
GROUP CAPTAIN R J Tichen - to RAF Newhead 28.4.95; P N Adams - to MOD 5.5.95; M J Bruce - to MOD 5.5.95; J L Buckler - to HQ NATO 5.5.95; C A Garding - to HQ NATO 5.5.95; C B Loe - to SHAF 8.5.95; WOOD - to HQ 10.5.95.
WING COMMANDER B J Bates - to MOD 13.5.95; G M Chahula - to HQ 13.5.95; A Campbell - to MOD 13.5.95; J Johnston - to MOD 20.5.95; P G Hitchcock - to NEFMA Munich 20.5.95; V Thompson - to MOD 20.5.95; C Stapleton - to MOD 27.5.95; D H Jackson - to MOD 34.95; C W Dutton - to MOD 18.4.95; C Miller - to IWS 13 RM Poole 24.4.95; M W Sweeney - to D of RAS (RAF) 24.4.95.

Armourers and Brasiers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Armourers and Brasiers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Godfrey C. Hornby; Upper Warden, Mr Michael J. Paton; Renter Warden, Mr Peter J. Fenton.

10,000 STUDENTS IN PARIS MARCH

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Wednesday morning

For the first time in the history of that Paris landmark and national shrine, the strains of the "international" shouted by some 10,000 demonstrating students echoed under the Arc de Triomphe during the night. They had taken possession of the vast circle around the monument, their red and black flags massed on either side of the unknown soldier's tomb, guarded against trespass by a human chain of organizers of the U.N.E.F., the left-wing students' organization, which took the lead in organizing and channelling the demonstration last night, as it has done in the past two days of student unrest.

Around the Arc de Triomphe, plunged in darkness because the demonstrators had closed the fountains of the floodlighting, the police remained discreetly in the background. But a little further down the Champs Elysees, at the junction of the Avenue George V, an impressive force, including special riot squads, the C.R.S. armed with rifles, was drawn across the avenue, barring the way, truncheons and shields and tear gas bombs at

ON THIS DAY

May 8, 1968

The troubles began in March with the arrest of students during anti-American demonstrations. Alleged police brutality sparked violence. Two weeks later, workers joined the students, mounting lightning strikes.

The ready. Behind them a large number of police lorries, and a couple of water lorries with high-powered hoses, formed an effective barricade. When the throng of students, which for nearly five hours had wound its way through the heart of Paris, past the Invalides, the National Assembly and up the Champs Elysees, began moving down again in the direction of the Concorde, it suddenly came up against this police block.

For a few tense moments it was touch and go, the two sides separated only by a hundred yards of no-man's land. But the police kept its

nerve, and so did the organisers of the demonstration. They succeeded in channeling their troops down the Avenue George V towards the Seine, and averting a big clash. It had been the same at several points on the long march of the students through the city.

When the procession finally found its way back to the Latin Quarter, a clash with the police, which had fired tear gas bombs, was reported near the Rue de Rennes.

President de Gaulle declared today that he would not tolerate violent demonstrations by students in the streets of Paris, where nearly 400 police and civilians were injured on Monday. General de Gaulle told members of the bureau of the National Assembly, who called on him today: "It is not possible to allow the opponents of the university to insult themselves within the university. It is not possible to tolerate violence in the street, which has never been the way to bring about a dialogue." Dialogue is what the editorials of the Paris press called for this morning.

Before tonight's clashes 434 demonstrators were under arrest, of whom only 195 were known to be students. Red Cross authorities said that about 360 people injured yesterday's riots had been taken to hospital and about 60 detained, mostly with wounds in the face. Half the injured were police.

FOOTBALL

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CRICKET



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United keep up the chase on Blackburn



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Plucky Torrance wins his test of nerves



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Defeated Celtic Swing may miss the Derby



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Who are the real leaders of Test cricket?

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 8 1995



RFU set to back down over dismissal of England captain Carling may be reinstated

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a weekend so tortuous few novelists would attempt it, there were signs last night that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) may be about to back down from the decision to dismiss Will Carling as England captain after a profound expression of playing unity.

The other 25 players in the World Cup squad, which meets for training in Marlow this evening, stood firm behind the man who has led them since 1988. The two outstanding candidates to replace him as captain said they would accept the role.

Dean Richards and Rob Andrew both said they were not prepared to take the captaincy in such circumstances. The only other candidate, Tim Rodber, was considered to be unready for the role.

Carling's agent, Jon Holmes, contacted Dennis Easby, president of the RFU, to try to effect a reconciliation which would be in the best interests of all parties.

The decision to sack Carling, announced three hours before the Pilkington Cup final on Saturday, infuriated the squad and amazed the rugby world. The rift between England's leading players and administrators, already broad, suddenly became a chasm a few days before a scheduled announcement of a sponsorship agreement worked out between the RFU and the players which will substantially increase their annual earnings from the game.

The players were involved yesterday in frantic telephone calls after Friday's meeting of the RFU officers decided "in the light of views Will Carling has recently expressed regarding administrators, it is inappropriate for him to continue to represent as the England captain, the rugby Football Union, England and indeed English sport".

The comments referred to the dismissive remark made by Carling at the end of a television documentary on Thursday in which he described those who run rugby union in England as "old farts".

The players' company, Parallel Media Group, issued a statement yesterday saying that the full England World

Cup squad "respectfully requested that the officers of the Rugby Football Union reconsider the decision to dismiss Will Carling. All the players stand fully behind Will as captain of the England team."

The tone is quite deliberate, suggestive of recognition that Carling was wrong to expose a contemptuous view on national television in the way he did — even if he believes he was set up by the makers of the Channel 4 documentary, *Fair Game*. It will come as a huge relief to the game's administrators, who severely underestimated the wave of sympathy for Carling, even though they were taking what they believed to be a principled stand.

At least one club, Woking,

had gathered together the required number of signatures to call for a special general committee meeting of the RFU at which they intended to press for a vote of censure on the six officers who had taken the decision, at the

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instigation of Easby, who, with Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, was jeered during Saturday's cup final.

"It is a very reasonable statement [by the players]," Easby said last night. "I have had a talk with Jon Holmes

and he proposed that I should meet Will and I am prepared to do so as early as possible."

If the two men can agree a form of words which will leave dignity relatively intact on both sides, a desperately unfortunate episode may be terminated, though not necessarily forgotten.

Earlier, Easby, 70, claimed there could be no reconsideration of the decision which would have terminated a seven-year reign of 48 games and 37 victories for Carling, including three grand slams and a World Cup final. However, if Carling, whose initial apology on Friday came too late for the irate president, can perform an acceptable *mea culpa* and Easby can express regret for a degree of haste and lack

of consultation, some form of unity may prevail.

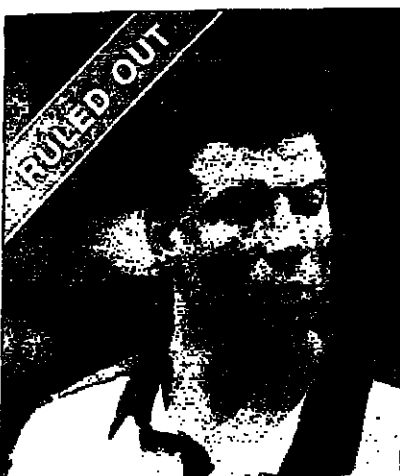
Carling, reported close to tears after being told of his demotion, realised how stupid he had been. "But I couldn't believe that they would take such Draconian action without allowing me to put my side in a fair hearing," he said.

He also observed that Wood, who retired as secretary in July, had been widely criticised two years ago for off-the-record remarks at a sports editors' lunch which subsequently appeared in public as allegedly racist in tone. "Nothing came of it," Carling added. "I say something after I believed an interview was over... and I am pilloried. I believe I was set up."

Although Wood claimed considerable support for the committee after the television programme, some committee members were angered by the officers' decision which will be discussed at Friday's executive committee meeting.

Easby accepted full responsibility. "The words Will used are not relevant but the implications were quite clear, in fact that he had lost confidence in all, in the administrators."

The rugby public, though, is more likely to identify with Richards, so popular a figure on and off the field. "What the RFU has done to Will is outrageous," the Leicester No 8 said. "They have got it wrong. What we need at this time is stability, not disharmony. All teams want their best captain to lead them on to the pitch and, in England's case, that best captain is Will Carling."



Rob Andrew
"I could not accept the job of leading England under the present conditions as a direct replacement for Will."



Tim Rodber
Regarded as being a likely long-term replacement for Carling, Rodber is thought to be unready to take over



Dean Richards
"I would not accept in these circumstances. I don't know if anybody else would."

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24 CARAT SMOOTHNESS

McCririck has famous last word with double

Goodness. John McCrirk can be an annoying man. Just when you are quite sure he is an on-course charlatan, when you are finally convinced that all that arm waving is betting-bamboozle, Channel 4's tick-tack man pulls off the sort of double that leaves you gasping.

One, that Pennenkamp would beat Celtic Swing in the 2,000 Guineas, and two, that Willie Carson had picked the wrong filly for the 1,000 Guineas. He should have been on Harayir not Agardir, said McCrirk. He was right. Carson was wrong.

Actually, McCrirk could claim a weekend treble, as he memorably got one over his colleague Jim McGrath. The spat between Big Mac and Little Mac got Channel 4's

always enjoyable *Morning Line* off to the most extraordinary start. For a moment all seemed normal — there was our congenial host, Derek Thompson, sporting his famously crumpled, just-got-out-of-bed look. There was the star guest, Peter Savill, the urbane owner of Celtic Swing. But within seconds McCrirk and McGrath were having the sort of row that made Will Carling's falling out with the Rugby Football Union look like a small misunderstanding.

"If Celtic Swing doesn't win by eight lengths your reputation is smashed forever," bellowed McCrirk, having taken the gravest exception to *Timeform* (with which McGrath is closely involved) rating Celtic Swing 15lb ahead of Pennenkamp and famously



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

describing the race's outcome as a "foregone conclusion".

McGrath's less than sparkling response will live with him for some time. "No, if he doesn't beat Pennenkamp by eight lengths..." Thompson eventually pulled them apart ("if he loses, you're finished" was McGrath's famous last word) and the *Morning Line* continued on its merry way.

After such a cracking *Morning Line*, the Channel 4 Racing coverage of the race itself was, by its own exemplary stan-

dards, something of an anti-climax. Squinting into the sunshine, Brough Scott was not at his sparkling best. Uncharacteristically, John Francome and the boys seemed a little under-prepared for the extended, 40-minute build-up to the big race. Or perhaps there was simply nothing left to say.

But having been deprived of their moment of history (or at least the expected one), the team picked themselves up with an informative post-

mortem that included an interview with the most disappointed jockey in Britain, Kevin Darley, and helpful replays of his mount's unfortunate start. Of owner Peter Savill there was, understandably, no sign — until yesterday, when he briefly appeared to announce he was reconsidering running his horse in the Derby.

Channel 4's coverage, I believe, has transformed horse racing on television and it was interesting to see the BBC adopt the same mob-handed approach to its first evening meeting from Ascot on Tuesday. Something similar, I suspect, is needed if the much-discussed decline in television interest in three-day eventing is to be halted.

Having understandably decided to ignore the dressage section (ten minutes of

Eurosport's coverage of free-style dressage to music will explain why) what *Grandstand* needed was a hard-nosed résumé, with brief highlights of the leading riders' tests and interviews with the leaders.

But instead of William Fox-Pitt (who, apart from being young, British and in the lead was, having won Burghley, going for the double) we got Sue Barker and Lucinda Green limping their way through the sort of pre-recorded idiot's guide that merely demonstrated how much the former has to learn about eventing and how much the latter has to learn about television. A sport that can still pull in a paying crowd of 250,000 deserves better.

Racing, pages 29-31

SPORT IN BRIEF

Berkshire through despite red card

THE Berkshire goalkeeper, Keith Duffy, was sent off for a violent offence in the Norwich Union county hockey championship preliminary-round match against Somerset at Aldershot yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes). The incident occurred in the 35th minute, after Somerset had cut Berkshire's lead to 3-1. Berkshire won 5-3 to finish on top of pool five.

The seven pool winners joining Berkshire in the quarter-finals at Portsmouth on May 20 are the Royal Air Force, Derbyshire, Suffolk, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Durham and Kent, who trounced Northumberland 11-0 at Beckenham. Staffordshire, the winners last year, were eliminated on their last fixture, losing 6-1 to Middlessex. Surrey, runners-up last year, lost 3-0 to Yorkshire at Doncaster.

Monarchs scrape home

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: A late touchdown by Larry Wallace brought the London Monarchs an 11-10 victory over the Scottish Claymores yesterday in the first professional match between Scotland and England (Richard Whetzel writes). But whatever tension there was in a game that ended the first half of the World League of American Football season can be discounted. This was a poor offering to set before the 10,481 at Murrayfield. The defeat means the Claymores finish bottom of the table but, with the split season, they can start afresh next week.

On Saturday, the Amsterdam Admirals extended their 100 per cent record by beating the Rhein Fire 30-10, and the Frankfurt Galaxy beat the Barcelona Dragons 24-20.

Hingis overcome

TENNIS: Conchita Martínez, the Wimbledon champion, right, put on a powerful clay-court display to overwhelm Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old Swiss, 6-1, 6-0 and win the Hamburg women's tournament yesterday. Hingis was overcome by stage fright in her first professional final and produced a series of unforced errors that made Martínez's job easier.



England miss Atlanta

TABLE TENNIS: Chen Xinhua completed England's 3-0 win over Croatia yesterday, their third success of the world championships in Tianjin, China. England can finish as high as thirteenth if they win their last match of the team event today. Chen beat the world No 246, Davor Karlovic, 21-13, 21-14. Desmond Douglas, 39, lost in the 3-1 defeat by Poland, which ended England's hopes of qualifying for the World Team Cup in Atlanta in August.

Indio start well

POLO: League matches for the Texaco Trophy, opened at Amersham yesterday. Indio, holders of the trophy, beat Azura 4-3. Henry Brett gave Azura a 2-1 lead in the first chukka but, in the second, Lucas White, Joany Wade and Alan Kent co-ordinated a series of well-timed assaults to put Indio 4-2 ahead. Brett scored again from a spirited gallop during the last chukka. The tournament continues with two more league encounters this afternoon.

Britons win 10 medals

ROWING: Britain's men returned from the Piediluco regatta in Italy yesterday with six gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The world champions, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, won gold medals, as expected, in the coxless pairs but the bonus of the competition was a double gold for the new-look British eight with Graham Smith and Richard Rogers, the former junior world champions, in the stern seats.

Ruelas loses quickly

BOXING: Oscar de la Hoya, right, stopped Rafael Ruelas, the IBF lightweight champion, in the second round in Las Vegas on Saturday. Earlier, Jimmy Garcia, of Colombia, was rushed to hospital for brain surgery after losing to Ruelas's brother, Gabriel, in the eleventh round of the WBC super-featherweight title bout. Garcia was taken unconscious from the ring.



Hendry takes control

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry reached another statistical milestone as he remained on course for a successful defence of the Dr Martens Matchroom League title in Irthlingborough yesterday. The Scot, whose appetite for tournament wins was clearly unquenched by his fifth world championship triumph at the Crucible in Sheffield eight days ago, established a commanding 7-2 lead over Ken Doherty at the halfway point of the best-of-17-frame final.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

JEJUNE

(a) Starving, deficient in nourishing qualities, hungry, barren, unsatisfying to the mind or soul, from the Latin *jejunus* fasting. Problematic to pronounce, and often misapplied to mean "young and silly" from its similarity to the French *jeune*. "This is a typically splendid piece of writing, Giles, so glittering, so meretricious, so jejune."

NEFARIOUS

(a) Unspeakable, unutterable, so wicked that it does not bear speaking about, like some of the unfortunate events in ancient tragedy. Usually associated with a noun indicative of wickedness, as nefarious thuggery, nefarious lechery, nefarious driving. Similar to nefarious, with the distinction that nefarious comes from the Latin *ne* not + *fas* right, divine law. Nefariousness is a possible combination, especially in journalism.

BATHYCOLPION

(c) Deep-bosomed, having a shelf for a breast, from the Greek *bathus* deep + *kolpos* a gulf, promontory and hence bosom. "So you are both Seventh Day Adventists, Ebenezer. How rigorous. But I am afraid you cannot look for converts in this household. I am a lapsed Catholic, and Morag is, of course, a Bathycolpion."

STEATOPYGOS

(b) Having big buttocks, with a fat bottom, an attribute of some races and ages much admired as symbolising health and fertility, viz. the steatopygous figures of primitive Mediterranean societies. From the Greek *steatos* fat + *pygon* a bottom. "Do not try to hide your Rubenesque charms in fluttering Laura Ashley. There's. I have always found the steatopygous more fun to come to grips with."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rg3+ 2 h2xg3 2+ 3 Kf2 3 Qx2 Qh1 mate 3... Qg2+ 4 Ke3 Q3 mate

American triumphs at Badminton

Davidson displays lion's heart to lift elusive trophy

By Jenny MacArthur

BRUCE DAVIDSON achieved a lifelong ambition when he and Eagle Lion won the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy after a dramatic final day at the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday. The 45-year-old Pennsylvanian is the first rider from the United States to win the event.

His victory came at the expense of Australia's Olympic champion, Matt Ryan, on the 18-year-old Kibah Tic Toc. They had started at the head of the field — after William Fox-Pitt's Chaka, the overnight leader, failed the final horse inspection — but dropped to second place with five penalties in the show jumping. In a superb day for the United States, whose riders are trained by Mark Phillips, Karen O'Connor moved up to third place on Biko.

Davidson, twice a world champion, has dominated the sport in the United States for 20 years but was beginning to wonder if there was a jinx on him at Badminton, where he first competed in 1974. Since then he has been in the top four on four occasions. "Let's just say that winning Badminton is right on a par with my world champion titles," he said.

It was a disappointing day for Britain, since only two riders finished in the leading ten. Kristina Gifford, whose performances have been a highlight of the event, finished fifth on General Jock and seventh on Midnight Blue II.

Ian Stark, on his new ride, Caliber, dropped from third to tenth after hitting three fences. These two riders are likely to head the long list for the European championships to be announced tomorrow.

The day had begun dramatically when five horses failed the second horse inspection including Chaka, who had been on course for a Badminton-Burghley double, and Bertie Blunt, the horse which Mark Todd had ridden into fourth place despite losing a stirrup.

DETAILS

FINAL RESULTS: 1, Eagle Lion (B Davidson, US) 48.60; 2, Kibah Tic Toc (M Ryan, Aus) 48.30; 3, Biko (K O'Connor, US) 51.00; 4, Just An Ace (M Todd, NZ) 53.80; 5, General Jock (K Gifford, GB) 55.20; 6, True Blue Greywood (P Dutton, Aus) 56.45.

Forty-four horses from the original 79 were left to contest the show jumping, for which Ryan had less than a fence in hand over Davidson. Stark could not afford a mistake if he was to retain third place.

Todd, in sixth, put pressure on the leaders with a clear round. O'Connor responded by doing the same. Gifford made one mistake on General Jock, dropping behind Todd. Stark's 15 faults put him out of contention.

Davidson, the last but one to go and scenting victory, produced a beautifully judged round on Eagle Lion. Bred by

Patricia Nicholson in co. Meath, the ten-year-old gelding, who finished fourth last year, reflected his rider's meticulous schooling as he jumped clearly round the 12 fences.

Unable to bring himself to watch Ryan's round, Davidson waited in the collecting ring. A gasp from the crowd when Ryan hit the white gate, Fence 4, confirmed that his 21-year quest was over. Ryan, who had come so close to winning the coveted trophy, was magnanimous in defeat. "Tic Toc is not the best show jumper — I was expecting to have one down. I'm just thrilled he's gone so well."

Despite the hard, sun-baked ground for the cross country on Saturday, the course rode well with 35 of the 69 riders who set off on Phase D incurring no jumping penalties. Surprisingly, Karen Dixon, a bronze medal-winner at the world championships last year, was not among them. She had a fall with Hot Property at Fence 7 and a run-out at Fence 6 with her second ride, Too Smart.

Nine riders finished clear inside the time of which three — Gifford, Mary Thomson, on King William, and Stark — are British. Thomson dropped to fourteenth place after hitting four fences in the show jumping. The most impressive Badminton debut came from the stylish Nick Campbell, 20, a pupil of Todd's, who finished nineteenth on Nietzsche.



Davidson completes a clear round yesterday to become the first American to win the title

Blake's victory blows in sea change

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SAN DIEGO

PETER BLAKE'S talk of a future America's Cup boycott seems unlikely to happen. The opening race of the challenge round against the bowlerised *Young America* produced an emphatic victory for the New Zealand skipper of *Black Magic* by 2min 45sec here on Saturday.

Should New Zealand fail to win, at the fourth attempt, this best-of-nine series, Blake has speculated that foreign yacht clubs would not bother to come back here to challenge, at tremendous cost to sponsors, the devious American rule changes. His opinion has been powerfully supported by criticism of the Americans' off-the-water tactics by David Pedrick, designer of Dennis Conner's discarded yacht, *Stars & Stripes*.

However, such was *Black Magic*'s domination of the race on Saturday that, unless Conner's crew can rapidly adapt to their new craft, there could be five successive victories for Blake's confident

crew. *Black Magic*'s margin, and mastery, was little different from that she had enjoyed throughout the challengers' elimination series.

Tom Whidden, Conner's tactician, remains unshakably loyal to his skipper's cause, however controversial that may be, but he admitted afterwards that they would never know whether they had made the right decision to switch boats. That carries a suggestion that Team Dennis Conner may not be confident of winning.

"We're happy to have a boat with more tools that we wouldn't have had otherwise... I feel it was a good move today," Whidden said. "We'll learn to sail better every day. We'll sail best in the last race."

That race could come too soon for Conner. Whidden means the ninth, but the final race could come sooner. The evidence from the first race was that *Black Magic* pointed higher (sailed closer to the

wind) and had a marked speed advantage once the wind eased after a heavy start that left big seas. Once Paul Cayard, by his own admission, had made a couple of tactical errors at the helm, *Black Magic* was away, never to be challenged.

The New Zealand lead at the end of the first beat was 31 seconds. On the first downwind leg, *Black Magic* had trouble with a spinnaker pole — which was later righted — and *Young America* closed to 12 seconds. An agitated Conner could be heard shouting "we can take them" as he pursued his rival round the second mark.

His estimation proved wrong, the second leg to windward seeing the disparity between the boats and, at this moment, the crews widened further.

Black Magic stretched the lead to 42 seconds, then widened it downwind, and the race was effectively over. It was all very well for Cayard,

who remains engagingly humorous, even in defeat, to say defiantly: "I think we can still make it a hell of a series." There is not too much at present to support this theory.

Early on, *Young America* had lost its electronics, forcing Whidden to navigate with an old hand-held compass steadiest on a winch top. Cayard joked that this had been their best spell and that Jim Brady, their navigator, had said to switch the electronics off again when they became functional.

It is a good boat to steer, Cayard said, yet even when Conner's crew becomes more familiarised, you sense its rival has an edge. In the light of Pedrick's formal comments — "the reputation of Americans has been tarnished by syndicate action and defence decisions during the past six weeks" — a shift of the cup down under, and revision of the rules, would be widely welcomed.

Hamed out to break Mexican control

THE Latin American domination of the lower boxing divisions could be about to be broken. The man who disputes the notion that Mexicans can see off interlopers is Naseem Hamed, the super-bantamweight, from Sheffield. He intends to be world champion at two or more weights.

The 21-year-old showman who has so far stood all-comers on their head by his unorthodox style, underlined his threat by dispatching Enrique Angeles, of Mexico, inside two rounds at Shepton Mallet on Saturday. Angeles has never been on the floor in his 38-bout career.

Afterwards, looking battered and bruised from the one-sided bout in which he received a two-handed pasting, he said: "He [Hamed] can hit. He's a puncher. I've never been stopped like

Srikumar Sen on the Sheffield boxer determined to clinch at least two world championships

that. He left me feeling dizzy."

Hamed, who brought Angeles to a juddering halt with a big right, promises to do the same to any world champion who dares to cross his path, be he Marco Barrera, of Mexico, the World Boxing Organisation champion, Hector Acero Sanchez, the World Boxing Council champion, of the Dominican Republic, Buyani Bungu, International Boxing Federation holder, of South Africa, or Wilfredo Vasquez, the World Boxing

Association holder, of Puerto Rico.

Hamed impressed Larry O'Connell, the referee in charge of the bout. O'Connell believed it would take a master boxer of the likes of Howard Winstone, or a fighter with the strength of a Barry McGuigan to stop Hamed's march to a title. This was praise indeed as Winstone and McGuigan were featherweights. Hamed is a super-bantam, a lighter division.

Performances like this are more likely to scare away champions than bring them to England, but Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, is certain he can set up a world title bout in July or September.

"I'm sure Naz will be world champion by the autumn," he said. "We'll buy the title if we have to. If we have to pay for a world title fight, we'll do that."

THE TIMES

2,800 FREE tickets to see Ed Wood

STARRING: Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette



Against the exciting background of 1950s America, with its adored silver screen legends like Orson Wells, Marlon Brando and Marilyn Monroe, emerged an altogether less successful B-grade movie director, Edward D Wood Jr, regarded as directing some of the worst movies ever made.

And now readers of *The Times* are offered the chance to be one of the first to see the hilarious new film about his life — *Tim Burton's Ed Wood* at special screenings throughout the country on Sunday May 28. We are giving away 2,800 tickets to readers on a first come, first served basis for this film which has been selected for official competition at the Cannes film festival. To obtain your tickets call the number below followed by the number for your area before midnight May 10.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

England's future rests firmly in hands of the players

Well, chaps, this is a deciding moment in your sport. If you wish — but only if you wish — it could be the most significant moment in rugby history since that day, a century back, when the Northern Union broke away to form what became the rugby league.

There is a gulf in every sport, administrators on one side, players on the other. It is a gap of ambition, aspiration, power, generation. But in rugby union, we are talking Grand Canyon.

Adults and children. Will Carling has been slapped down, expelled, naughty boy, all for checking the teachers. No player is bigger than the game, old boy.

Wrong, wrong, wrong. The players ARE the game. Every one of Carling's infamous 57

should take 100 lines: "No administrator is bigger than the game."

Carling's throwaway insult expressed the view from the sharp end of the game, the end where it hurts. His amiable contempt is nothing you do not hear every day among players. So long as you do not stick microphones up their noses.

But Carling said it out loud, and so must pay the fearful penalty. What we must ask was the Rugby Football Union (RFU) trying to do by sacking him? If it wanted to show that Carling's view was mistaken, it has surely done the complete opposite.

It is "inappropriate for him to represent... the RFU, England and indeed, English sport". Did you ever hear



Simon Barnes on the options for the national team in the wake of the RFU's dismissal of the captain

Quite useful, you would think, as rugby league makes its bid for global audiences. But no. There are things in life more important than the future of the game. And that is the dignity of the officials.

But perhaps the RFU thought by acting quickly it could kill the story. It has created a monster. It will disrupt the England team, perhaps beyond repair. And it will make the sport look silly and the administrators look like a bunch of — well, no one is quarrelling with Carling's description, only his timing.

The fact is that the notorious 57 seriously believe they are guardians of a higher morality, amateurism, friendship across national boundaries, a global freemasonry of like-minded, right-minded types, united by love of a game they once played for love.

But, instead, they have proved themselves guardians of a higher hypocrisy. Former friends of apartheid, supporters of a shamateur system consistent only in refusing to see what lies before them — that is, the fact that players across the world get

paid for playing rugby union. Instead, they had the temerity to despise their own players as greedy. They refuse to concede that rugby union is harder, tougher and more serious than ever.

No player of amateurish approach plays big-time rugby union.

Carling, let no committee man doubt this, has the sympathy of a nation that had been looking forward to a decent World Cup. This demonstrates that the famous 57 are as far out of touch with the rugby supporters as they are with the front-line players.

And at this precise moment — but only for a moment — the game is in the hands, not of the administrators, but of these top players.

The England squad can

define the future of English rugby. Already, a tentative first step has been taken with the players' — through gruffed teeth — respectful statement, but how far are they prepared to go?

In all sports such devastations as this bring hot talk of solidarity from the players, but most times it comes to nothing. Top athletes are interested in their own ambitions, not in other people. Time and again, hot talk fizzles out. Why miss the chance of a lifetime for a point of principle?

This is made more likely in rugby union by its natural split and consequent resentment between glory-boy backs and real-hard-working forwards.

How loved is Carling? Perhaps it comes down to that?

There are three possible scenarios. One is to match the RFU with hypocrisy. Accept everything it says, accept say, Rob Andrew as captain, have him lead the boys out on to the pitch and do the press conferences but keep Carling as *de facto* leader. Keep him — publicly — in the centre of the huddle.

That would be an inelegant two fingers to Twickenham, and could have a wonderful unifying effect on the team at the World Cup. Second possibility is to cave in, and keep power in the hands of the 57. The last is naked confrontation: to force the issue, and to defy the RFU. A cautious move has been made towards scenario one. I wonder how long players will be able to keep their nerve. All the way? Rugby expects.

Careless remark proves costly

Carling's captaincy controversial from start to finish

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING'S appointment as England captain in 1988 was controversial in so far as few except Geoff Cooke, then the England manager, had identified him as a future leader at the age of 22. Now, after 48 internationals in charge, of which 37 have been won — by far the best record in English and, indeed, world rugby — Carling will relinquish the reins in not only controversial but unique circumstances.

At the time, it was a far-sighted move by Cooke. England had made their way through four captains in 1988 (Mike Harrison, Nigel Melville, John Orwin and Richard Harding) and Cooke, still feeling his way into national management, sought a long-term leader to take the team into the 1991 World Cup. Above all he sought continuity, lack of which has bedevilled English rugby.

Carling, the product of Sedburgh and Durham University, where he was on an Army scholarship, was picked to provide it against Australia after only seven caps. He was the youngest player in a squad which included such alternatives as Simon Halliday, Rob Andrew, Brian Moore and Dean Richards, and was almost as shocked to receive the call as he was by the manner of his dismissal on Saturday morning.

During his seven-year reign, England have become a power in world rugby, coincidentally at a time when the other national team sports, football and cricket, have been in decline. Three grand slams and an appearance in the 1991 World Cup final represent

untold riches after the morass of the Sixties, Seventies and mid-Eighties, when England's playing strength was not reflected in international results.

Carling's contribution to those riches has been substantial. Initially it was his qualities as a player that earned the respect of his peers. By his own admission he had to feel his way but he developed his own technique of captaincy, built up steadily through a personalised approach off the field which, though it did not work for some, was readily appreciated by others.

1985: Born in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire on Dec 12, 1964. Left Sedburgh and went to Durham University. Captained England 1989-90, 1991-92. Played for England 51 in their 22-9 win over France B. 1988. Bought his way out of Army for £5,000. Won first full England cap in 1984 against France, Jersey. In November, aged 22, became youngest English captain in 57 years, leading England to 20-19 win over Australia at Twickenham. 1988. Injury forced him to miss British Isles tour to Australia. 1989. Captained England to 13-7 defeat in grand slam decider at Murrayfield. 1991. Led England to first grand slam for 11 years, taking England to World Cup final, but lost 12-6 v Australia at Twickenham. 1992. Awarded OBE. Captained England to second grand slam, 1993. Made British Isles debut, v New Zealand, later dropped. 1994. Married Julie Smith. Wife gives cap for England, v Romania. 1995. Captains England to his third grand slam.

His head for tactics has been less certain but he himself has always insisted that captaincy is a collective responsibility in which other senior figures share. He had to overcome a mid-life crisis, in the form of the 1990 grand slam match at Murrayfield that went Scotland's way amid a welter of suggestions that Carling was not entirely in control of his team. Thereafter

he made it evident in matches who was in charge and though his career went through a hiccup in 1993, his return to form over the last season has been marked.

At the same time, Carling has created a profitable living on the back of being the England captain, having created his own company, Insight, which offers motivational ideas to businessmen. As one committee member said this weekend, he is probably the first cult figure that English rugby union has had.

The public recognition Carling has achieved has inspired a degree of resentment from an older generation which does not believe in players capitalising to such an extent on an "amateur" sport. That Carling is a "new age" rugby player cuts little ice with them. But he has also been involved in various incidents that have asked questions of his suitability as England captain, of which last week's was the straw which broke the camel's back.

On tour in Argentina in 1990 his appearance at the final tour dinner dined with paint after a players' "court" session provoked criticism. The following year he, Cooke and the entire England team chose not to attend a press conference following an historic victory in Cardiff over Wales.

There has been a running, and increasingly sour, battle with the establishment over the way forward for rugby and remuneration for players, a battle the Channel 4 programme on Thursday sought to exploit.

Carling has had to apologise to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) before for inadvertent comments, or actions that have elicited criticism, but failed to realise last week that he was in hotter water than before. A documentary that started life as an examination of rugby union two months ago during the build-up to the Calcutta Cup match became an opportunity to heap coals of fire upon the RFU, and a dismissive remark that if rugby were a proper professional sport it would not need "57 old farts" to run it, opened the floodgates.

Carling claims the remark was not made to camera and was not intended for publication. In that case he has been the victim of a journalistic device which leads the interviewee to believe the debate is still running. At 29 and allowing for the exposure he is constantly under, Carling might have been more worldly-wise. Now, despite his public apology on Friday evening, he has paid a hundredfold for his juvenile comment.



Easby, accompanied by Prince Edward, congratulates Bath players after their Pilkington Cup win over Wasps at Twickenham on Saturday

President's workload to be lightened

By DAVID HANDS

IRONICALLY this is the last year when a president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) may take such drastic steps as those initiated by Dennis Easby over the weekend. Constitutional changes already agreed by the Rugby Football Union will see the introduction in July of a slimmed-down executive body headed by its own chairman with responsibility for day-to-day decision-making and reducing the workload on the president.

He will, however, retain overall authority such as that exercised by Easby and, in the past, Dickie Jeeps, who was a stringent critic of the structure of the game and Alan Grimmedell, during whose term of office it was decided to suspend four players, including the captain, after the 1987 international between Wales and England in Cardiff. Each president holds office for a year, an election which is usually the final "tour of duty" by a committee member who has proved his capability by chairing sub-committees and representing the RFU internationally.

Easby, 70, is a retired solicitor whose playing career was spent with the Old Redingians. He took up refereeing in 1950 and reached the county panel, running the line in two international matches. Secretary and later president of Berkshire, he was elected to the RFU committee in 1971 and represented their interests on the International Rugby Football Board from 1987-94, his particular specialities being

amateurism and the laws of the game.

He took action after transmission on Thursday evening of Channel 4's *Fair Game* programme, in which Will Carling and Rob Andrew both made critical remarks of the RFU, but only Carling made the derogatory comment concerning rugby union in England being run by "57 old farts". That remark had been widely trailed by Channel 4,

even though it was not made to camera and formed the dismissive endpiece to the programme.

He was joined at the East India Club in London on Friday by three of the committee officers: Ian Beer, 64, the former headmaster of Harrow who is the union's immediate past president and the only former England international among the officers; Bill Bishop, 65, the senior vice-presi-

dent and an executive director of a training company, from Cornwall, who managed both the introduction of the league system and the report into the union's structure; and John Motum, 69, the assistant treasurer and a retired farm manager.

Neither John Richardson, the junior vice-president and a solicitor from Warwickshire, nor Peter Bromage, the treasurer and chairman of the new

executive committee, who is also a solicitor and a member of Warwickshire County Cricket Club's disciplinary committee, was able to be present but were extensively consulted. Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary and, therefore, the only professional sports administrator present, took notes.

The RFU handbook does not specify the powers of the officers but, according to Wood, there is general agreement that they can act independently in an emergency and then look to the committee for support. Whether verbal abuse constitutes an emergency is a moot point, but a letter was sent from Twickenham to committee members on Saturday detailing the action taken and seeking their support.

There will be an RFU executive committee meeting next Friday but the next full committee does not meet until July. If, however, there was pressure from sufficient committee members who opposed the decision, a special general meeting could be arranged, or if a written requisition to do so was received by 100 or more members of the union.

The RFU committee has the power to veto decisions recommended by any of its sub-committees, but in practice will seldom do so. Technically, the appointment of the England captain would pass from the team manager through the coaching committee, the executive committee and the full committee and would be confirmed annually, but in recent years the appointment has been taken largely as read.



Bishop: senior vice-president



Bromage: treasurer



Beer: past president



Wood: secretary

The decision to dismiss Will Carling was taken by the following officers of the Rugby Football Union, of whom John Richardson and Peter Bromage were consulted but not in attendance at Friday's meeting in London. Dudley Wood, the secretary of the RFU, was in attendance but had no part in the decision-making.

Dennis Easby: Aged 70; RFU president, retired solicitor. Attended Reading School and RAF short course at Caius, Cambridge.

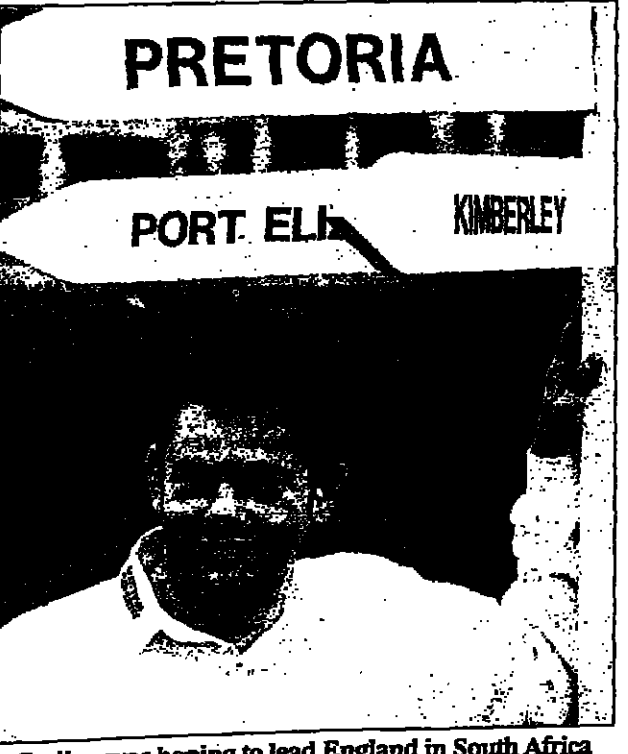
Ian Beer: 64; immediate past president; a retired headmaster, capped twice by England in 1955. Whitgift and St Catharine's, Cambridge.

Bill Bishop: 65; senior vice-president; executive director of a training company in Camborne. Redruth GS.

John Richardson: 62; junior vice-president; solicitor in Coventry.

Peter Bromage: treasurer and RFU chairman-elect; solicitor in Birmingham.

John Motum: 69; assistant treasurer; retired farm manager.



Carling was hoping to lead England in South Africa

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Yorke takes advantage with two goals in campaign to secure Premiership survival

Liverpool's indolence eases Villa workload

Aston Villa 2
Liverpool 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

A STARK warning, printed on a board by the Villa Park dug-outs, left no room for argument. "It is a criminal offence to go on to the pitch, for which you will be arrested and fined £400," it read. At the end of a thoroughly unsatisfactory FA Carling Premiership match on Saturday, the sign should have been taken down and repositioned in the away dressing-room.

Liverpool, at a conservative estimate, were eligible for a collective penalty of about £4,600 — £400 for each of the 11 starters and, say, £100 each for Clough and Matteo, the second-half substitutes.

Though they had broken no law nor committed any misdemeanour, they had entered the field of play and insulted the intelligence of many. Their effort was negligible, their achievement nil. It

Full results and league tables Page 26

is not often, down the distinguished years at Anfield, that a Liverpool manager has had to concede sheepishly that his side had given so little.

"We were not committed enough. It was not acceptable," Roy Evans said. "It was not as if we didn't turn up, but we certainly didn't entertain. The biggest losers were our fans and, to them, I apologise."

Evans, for the second time in five days, was forced to confront the less palatable aspect of players collecting monstrous wages for minuscule work. Against Wimbledon, in the 0-0 draw at Selhurst Park on Tuesday, Liverpool at least showed some inclination for a fight. Wimbledon, as usual, had provoked them. Against Villa, though, sweat only stained their shirts because of the oppressive heat. It had little to do with graft.

"I've got to take a bit of the blame," Evans said. "With all the pressure in the game today, I've tried to create a

more relaxed attitude, but we still want to finish as high as we can in the table." Of course, of course. Yet qualification for Europe, via their triumph in the Coca-Cola Cup, has evidently drawn the sting from even the most conscientious of clubs. A bad, sad day.

Not that Villa, or their supporters, were grieving. One win in 11 matches, and two goals in nine, had pulled them inexorably towards the edge of the relegation abyss. Brian Little, the Villa manager, said: "We sat down, talked about it and quickly realised that if we didn't pull our fingers out, we were going to go down. I think we responded."

Villa merited their victory, the first at home for almost three months, without having to resort to anything spectacular. Staunton, the captain, served them well, and Saunders scampered incessantly, a lesson in perpetual motion. All Liverpool could create, poor things, was a series of midfield triangles that inevitably ended with the ball further back than where it started.

Yorke headed home twice, unchallenged, in the 25th and 36th minutes. First from Staunton's corner, aided by Ehiogu's illegal yet undetected block on James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, and then from an enticing near-post cross from Saunders.

The second half was dire, enlivened only by the bouncy appearance of a male streaker. "He showed more movement than we did," Evans said, his endearing Scouse humour erasing the prospect of more awkward questions.

Whatever the public address announcer felt — "see you all next season in the Premiership," he boomed — Villa could still take the plunge. Their final fixture is away to Norwich City, now consigned to the Endleigh Insurance League, on Sunday, with Staunton relishing a similar challenge at Carrow Road. "Hopefully, they won't be trying then, either," he said.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bonnici — U. Ehiogu, P. McGrath, S. Taylor — G. Charles, A. Townsend, I. Taylor, S. Staunton, A. Wright — D. Saunders, D. Yorke.
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — M. Thomas, J. Scates, M. Wright, S. Harshness — J. R. Rodgers, B. Barnes, S. McManis, M. Walters (sub: D. Matteo, 75min) — I. Rush (sub: N. Clough, 64), R. Fowler (sub: R. Hart).



Martyn, the Palace goalkeeper, right, beats Boere to the ball during a goalmouth scramble in the 1-0 win over West Ham at Selhurst Park

Palace's pursuit of purity puzzles Smith

Crystal Palace 1
West Ham United 0

By ALYSON RUDD

FOR much of the start of this season, Crystal Palace looked like rabbits startled by the glare of professionalism and experience, most opposition presented to them. Palace degenerated, with myxomatosis-ridden performances in the FA Carling Premiership while curiously playing like hares on speed in cup competitions. At Selhurst Park on Saturday, though, Palace were a bit too fluffy bunny for their manager's liking.

Yes, they won a match they

could not afford to lose and the crowd's relief and gratitude touched Alan Smith. However, while trying to sound "cluffed to bits", as he put it, Smith was also clearly concerned. "We've had so many chances today and still we failed to kill a game off," he said.

Palace will certainly need the streetwise tactics of Bugs Bunny for their final two matches, away to Leeds United and Newcastle United. "We're too pure. We've been too pure all the way along," the evidence Smith needed for this claim came when Dicks appeared to clear a goalmouth shot with his arm. The Palace

players did not appeal for a penalty.

Armstrong's goal in the fifth minute — for him a rare poaching strike after Houghton's shot had bounced off Mikosko — was sufficient to seal three points because West Ham behaved like a side that had won some obscure trophy earlier in the year that guaranteed them a place in the Premiership next season.

Perhaps, in Saturday's heat, they saw a mirage of such a trophy. Whatever the reason, they were, as Harry Redknapp, their manager, admitted, lethargic. Fortunately for the east London team, they have shown they can get streetwise and their next oppo-

nents, Liverpool, have won a trophy that renders their league position, through qualification for the UEFA Cup, irrelevant.

"We must win that one," Redknapp said. "A draw will be no good to us. The last thing we want is to know we must beat Manchester United in our final game, especially if they still have a chance of the championship."

It is probably too late for Smith to inject the "duck and dive" mentality of the market dealer, which he feels his players lack. Smith was prepared to duck and dive himself, keeping Armstrong when other dealers would have grabbed the £5 million or so

some clubs are prepared to pay for him.

But that faith was misplaced and Smith now has to trust the experience and commitment of Dowie and Houghton. Palace are, despite Saturday's result, still the club most likely to fit the last remaining relegation place. If they do go down, it will be because the season was just not long enough for Smith to instill in his squad the right balance of virtue and vice.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N. Mann — J. Humphrey, E. Young, R. Shaw, D. Gordon — R. Houghton, D. Pittman, G. Southgate, J. Salas — D. Dowie, C. Armstrong.
WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L. Mikosko — T. Beacher, S. Potts, M. Pinner, J. Dicks — M. Hart (sub: S. Webster, 77min), J. Bevan, M. Morris, M. Holmes — J. Boen, D. Hutchinson (sub: T. Morley, 61).
Referee: S. Lodge.

Title win could be expensive business for Sullivan

Huddersfield Town 1
Birmingham City 2

By PETER BALL

WITH its tubular-steel curves set against a forested hill rising steeply behind it, the McAlpine Stadium looked more like Palermo than the Pennines in the scorching sunshine on Saturday. But the groups of spectators perched on the hillside saw a match that was strictly third. (ie second) division.

A year ago, Birmingham City went to Tranmere Rovers on the last day of the season, played with style and freedom, won 2-1 and were relegated. On Saturday they went to Huddersfield, played with solid, sometimes sullen, professionalism, won 2-1 and celebrated their return to the first division of the Endleigh Insurance League as champions.

Knowing that a point would almost certainly be enough, and with Kevin Francis leading a list of forwards absent because of injury, Birmingham set out to kill the game and did so. After half-time, they became more adventurous when Donawa and Tait came on, and they increasingly took control.

When news went round that Brentford, who needed to score four goals to win the championship in the event of Birmingham drawing, had gone ahead against Bristol Rovers, the response was instantaneous. Claridge spun on to Cooper's pass to bear the unsighted Francis. Tait claimed a second goal when Francis lost Cooper's cross-shot, and not even Jepson's late goal could stem the celebrations.

If the football was functional, the occasion was one to remember for the 4,000 Birmingham supporters in a packed ground, only the news of Aston Villa's win, and some typically curmudgeonly Yorkshire attitudes, spoiling their day. Constantly told to go home, they stayed for 35 minutes after the final whistle.



Fry: ebullient

until at last the players and Fry came out on a lap of honour.

If Birmingham are ready for the big time, Huddersfield have a bit to do, in spite of their magnificent stadium. The team can try again in the play-offs, but if the game was third-division, the organisation was non-league, compounded by more obstructive security than at a World Cup final.

Villa's win probably means that there will not be a second-city derby next season, but it has probably only been postponed. David Sullivan, the chairman, and Fry were in bullish mood afterwards, and who can blame them?

If this game was mundane, the fair and bubbling enthusiasm that Fry transmits to his teams have made Birmingham the league's leading goalscorers and brought the Auto Windscreens Shield, too. With their financial clout and massive support, it should be effective higher up.

Sullivan, at least, had no doubts. "We will have to buy, certainly a striker, because Kevin Francis is out until November, possibly a mid-field player and a central defender, too; it depends what the manager wants," he said.

"But the day we were relegated I said we would come straight back and win the Auto Windscreens trophy. Next season I can see us going up again, and being at Wembley for a major final."

The ebullient Fry, whose autobiography could be titled *Spend, Spend, Spend*, has a ready response. "They'll have to spend ten million [pounds], if not 12, if not 15," he said, getting more ambitious by the second. "If he only wants to play at it, he'll have to give me three or four mill."

Huddersfield Town (4-4-2): S. Francis — S. Twell, P. Salas, L. Smith, J. Cooper — S. Twell (sub: P. Meadon, 72min), L. Durrant, D. Black — A. Booth, J. Jepson. Durrant (sub: C. Billy, 68).
Birmingham City (4-4-2): J. Smith — G. Pople, C. White, L. Salas, J. Firth — J. Hart (sub: L. Donaghy, 50), M. Ward, J. Henderson, J. Cooper — S. Claridge, P. Williams (sub: P. Tait, 58).
Referee: J. Wiles.

Desperate Everton face two cup finals before Wembley



Royle: confident

Everton 0
Southampton 0

By KEITH PIKE

THREE games to go, and each one a cup final — including, of course, the real thing on May 20.

But while they duck and dive in pursuit of tickets for Wembley, what Evertonian would not swap victory over Manchester United for three points at Ipswich Town tomorrow or Coventry City next Sunday, when their team will travel with its nerves exposed and its membership of the FA Carling Premiership hanging by a thread? The boys in blue did their

best on Saturday to raise their heroes' spirits. The Z-Cars theme and Everton's emergence at Goodison Park was met by rapturous, unequivocal applause, and the ovation at the end might have signalled a famous victory rather than a goalless draw.

In between times, though, the atmosphere was often funeral and the reality depressing: torpor on the pitch generating long periods of silence in the stands. A big crowd watching a big club in big, big trouble.

Two moments adequately encapsulated Everton's desperation. Forty seconds into the second half, Rideout skipped past Monkou on the right and Beasant, at the near post, parried

his shot into the path of Amokachi, who promptly scooped the ball back over the bar from eight yards.

Twenty minutes later, they tried again: Rideout's shot, Beasant's half-save, and this time Amokachi failed even to make contact with the ball, an air-shot born of high anxiety.

Beasant also saved competently from Samways and Parkinson, and thrillingly from Ablett, but this was no hard-luck tale for Everton.

Southampton — in form, out of danger and so much slicker and composed even without the injured Le Tissier — played the more incisive football and probably would have won had the officials not inexplicably missed Ablett's crude tug on

Magilton's shirt as he burst into Southall's area near the end.

It scarcely seems credible that when Alan Ball took Southampton to Goodison last season, Howard Kendall was in the home dug-out.

So much has happened to Everton in the intervening 17 months, and yet they are no further forward, with the prospect of another last-day relegation shoot-out looming large.

Joe Royle may have been perceived as the club's saviour when Everton started to climb the table, but a haul of three points from three home games in eight days represents the kind of wobble normally associated with entrances by Liz Hurley, the actress. Royle, though, has been

there, seen it and bought the relegation T-shirt with Oldham Athletic. "If you had promised me this position when I came here I would have taken it," the calmest man at Goodison said.

"We took eight points from the first third of the season but 38 points from the next two thirds. Who knows, we might have enough already, but one win will do it and I am still confident."

EVERTON (4-4-2): N. Southall — E. Barrett, D. Watson, D. Lineker, G. Abbott — J. Elliott (sub: V. Samways, 58min), S. Hodge, J. Parkinson, A. Hendrick (sub: A. Linpar, 58) — D. Amokachi, P. Ridsdill.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-1-4-2): D. Beasant — R. Hall, T. Westwood, K. Monkou — F. Bonell — J. Dodd, J. Magilton, M. Woodcock, S. Charlton (sub: M. Oakesley, 78) — N. Shepperson, G. Watson.
Referee: T. Holbrook.

Webb frustrated to the end

BRENTFORD might have guessed, even at 2-1 up and with the Endleigh Insurance League second division championship still a possibility, that their imagination was being reared. Their season has been one of balloons and drawing pins. Once again the pin popped the balloon.

In January, Brentford had a celebration planned to mark their 3,000th Football League match — souvenir programmes and all — but the fixture turned out to be their 2,999th once a scheduled game was postponed. More than once they have led the division this season, only to be overtaken.

On Saturday, any prospect of Brentford snatching the title from Birmingham City seemed to melt like ice in the sun when Gareth Taylor took advantage of Jamie Bates's failure to cut out a cross and headed Bristol Rovers in front after 16 minutes.

Brentford had come seeking a victory in the hope that Birmingham might lose to Huddersfield, enabling them to sneak the automatic promotion place.

For almost an hour nothing changed but, after 67 minutes, David Webb, the Brentford

manager, sent on David McGhee for Nicky Forster and Denny Munde for Simon Radcliffe. Before you could say double substitution, McGhee had equalised. Four minutes later, Robert Taylor put Brentford in front. Twerton Park in Bath, Rovers' adopted home, was stunned.

Suddenly, every Bristol supporter wanted to know how Birmingham were doing. Soon, a Rovers supporter, with his ear to a radio, announced that Birmingham had just taken the lead at Huddersfield. There was delight in his voice.

Ultimately, it mattered not that Birmingham won because, four minutes from time, Taylor scored his second headed goal for Rovers. His brace left Rovers in fourth place, with a play-off semi-final against Crewe Alexandra. Brentford play Huddersfield. If the final, at Wembley on May 28, is between Rovers

and Brentford, it should be worth watching: their last four league matches have yielded 19 goals.

The events of Saturday ensured that these two clubs, relegated from the first division together two years ago, cannot return as a pair. Brentford play Huddersfield in the other semi-final and Webb, though opposed to play-offs, said that the injustice in this case would be less marked than usual because the four clubs had finished within four points of each other.

John Ward, the Rovers manager, described his club as "the beggars, stealers and borrowers of this division." Everywhere you look you see supporters, even players, with T-shirts demanding a return to Bristol. The people of Bath would not be sorry to see them go and Saturday's local paper carried no match preview, as if denying their existence. Brentford knew otherwise.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): B. Parkin — D. Richardson, A. Tilton, W. Glen, A. Gurney — W. Stevens, P. Miller, J. Spencer, J. Charnock (sub: M. Brown, 77min) — M. Stewart (sub: L. Archer, 77), G. Taylor.
BRENTFORD (4-4-2): K. Doordan — B. Satchell, J. Bates, D. Agley, C. Hutchinson, P. Abraham, P. Smith, S. Radcliffe (sub: D. Munde, 67), P. Stephenson — T. Forster (sub: D. McGhee, 67), R. Taylor (sub: J. Lloyd).

Norwich pay the penalty

THE only certainty that emerged from a day of twists in the FA Carling Premiership relegation battle was that Norwich City will join Leicester City and their East Anglian rivals, Ipswich Town, in the first division of the Endleigh Insurance League next season.

Carlton Palmer's last-minute goal brought Leeds United a 2-1 win at Elland Road and saw Norwich depart in a cloud of acrimony. Their players surrounded Alan Wilkie, the referee, to remonstrate over the penalty he awarded for a trip on Tony Yeboah ten minutes from the end. It resulted in McAllister's equaliser for Leeds ahead in the first half.

Gary Megson, the Norwich caretaker manager, was upset by the decision. "Leeds didn't beat us; the referee did," he said. "There are a lot of tears in the dressing-room and no wonder. That is the angriest I have been in my career."

Coventry are only one point above the relegation zone after losing 2-0 at Ipswich,

but it seems like a lifetime. Their new £7 million stadium, paid for by the council, looks out over fields and the Grand Union Canal and Northampton rises into view beyond church spires. Even the team is looking up a bit. For Exeter City supporters, it was a tantalising view of what might be if their debts do not trample them into the ground this week.

They have plans for a new stadium like this, too, on the outskirts of the city with

Oliver Holt reports on a sympathetic reception and a 2-1 defeat for an endangered club

Exeter visible in the distance. But planning permission has been refused time and again. The club has been run by administrators since November, an embargo enforced on the buying of new players.

A consortium has raised the £300,000 necessary to save it, but will not commit it until it gets the go-ahead for the new stadium. The administrators want the money immediately and this week the axe could fall.

Exeter's 2-1 defeat on Saturday, by dint of goals from O'Shea and Sampson, meant that they finished bottom of the Endleigh Insurance League, saved from automatic relegation only by the shameful decision not to allow Macclesfield Town to claim promotion from the Vauxhall Conference.

Northampton were in the same position last year. This was the first time for three seasons they have gone into

their last game free of fears of finishing the bottom club. But the ceremonial handing over of the torch was overshadowed by a flood of sympathy for the visitors.

After their chanting in front of the main stand, the Exeter supporters walked towards the seats where the Northampton supporters were massed. The two sets of supporters stood almost nose to nose, applauding each other fiercely. It was a rare but uplifting show of footballing solidarity.

Many of the Exeter supporters lingered at the ground, as though they could not bring themselves to depart the scene of what might be their side's last game.

"We were in the same position as you three years ago," the Northampton vice-chairman, Barry Storrhill, told the Exeter contingent before the game. "Now here we are with a new stadium and a new future. Our message to you is: 'Never give up.'"

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2): A. Woodman — D. Norton, J. Sampson, R. Warburton, D. Hughes — D. O'Shea, O. Cahill (sub: S. Daniels, 67min), I. Brown, C. Burns — G. Thompson, N. Grayson (sub: L. Collier, 67).
EXETER CITY (4-4-2): P. Fox — J. Minnel, D. Cooper, J. Richardson, G. Hughes — J. Brown, M. Phillips, C. Anderson (sub: R. Pears, 44), M. Gwin — M. Carrigan, M. Cooper.
Referee: E. Walsby.

Rout sharpens urgency of bid for Gascoigne



Gascoigne: Rangers' target

This was a match dominated by a great midfielder player. Unfortunately, he was not participating in the Old Firm contest, resoundingly won 3-0 by Celtic, nor even sitting in the Hampden Park stand. Even so, Paul Gascoigne's presence loomed over the entire occasion. The attempt by Rangers to sign him from Lazio continues to gather credibility.

Their manager, Walter Smith, confirmed after the game that he had been in Rome on Friday, where he agreed a fee with the Italian club and also spoken to the player. "We have still to meet Gascoigne's agents and will do so in the near future," the manager said. "Once that is sorted out he can make up his mind whether or not he wants to come to Rangers."

There may be other suitors for Gascoigne in the FA Carling Premiership, perhaps including Everton, Chelsea and Leeds United, but the Ibrox club is pressing hardest

for an answer. The speed at which a fee has been agreed suggests that Rangers' bid would allow Lazio to recoup much of the £3.4 million they paid for the player in 1992.

Rivals may not even wish to pursue Rangers to such treacherous financial heights given that Gascoigne has had two serious injuries in the past four years and often appears to be pursuing a football career on an occasional basis. Despite that, his cameo appearances are still riveting. A 15-minute contribution against Roma last month, for instance, included a sumptuous 30-yard pass to Pierluigi Casiraghi.

There is, of course, a profusion of risks in acquiring Gascoigne. Introducing to Glasgow, with its sour football rivalry, a man whose social life has been alarmingly eventful is itself an incendiary procedure. Despite that, however, the allure of his talent may well overcome the reservations in any manager's mind. After

being knocked out of Europe at the first stage in each of the past two seasons, Rangers are right to covet the kind of technique and flair with which Gascoigne is imbued. The whole deal surely now hinges on Smith's powers of persuasion.

Gascoigne's brief comment on the matter is therefore likely to be subjected to the kind of textual analysis hitherto conducted only in esoteric universities. "While nothing is settled," he said, "I've got to admit that Rangers are a massive club and come strongly into my thoughts." Is this politeness or genuine enthusiasm speaking?

The answer might still take a while to emerge, for Gascoigne, with a year of his contract at Lazio remaining, can afford time for reflection. Economics at least should not prove a hindrance. Lavish wages, excitedly reported to lie anywhere between £15,000 and £20,000 a week, and the transfer fee itself are within Rangers'

means. In this case particularly, the commercial benefits, through the sale of jerseys and souvenirs, would greatly defray the expense. Gascoigne's assistance would have been extremely helpful for Rangers yesterday.

As it was, their weakened team was overwhelmed by Celtic in the second half. The exuberance of the display by Tommy Burns's team secured three goals for the first time in the League this season.

Pierre Van Hooijdonk opened the scoring, with a raking shot in 52 minutes, after Brian McLaughlin's run had cleaved the Rangers defence. Victory was clinched nine minutes later when Paul McStay's virtuoso pass sent Simon Donnelly surging on the right. The forward's low cross was neatly turned into his own net by the full back, Craig Moore.

A gleeful third goal came direct from a Rudi Vata free-kick seven minutes from the end, slithering

through the fingers of Billy Thomson, who soon after was ordered off for flooring McLaughlin just outside the area as he was about to add to the rout. The result provided ample encouragement for Celtic.

This was their last League game at Hampden, as they return to their own rebuilt Celtic Park next season. They will, however, be back at this venue for the Tennents Scottish Cup final against Airdrie on May 27. That match should bring Celtic's first trophy in six years. Their mastery of Rangers confirmed that defeat could occur only if the players utterly betrayed their own ability.

Such a failure seemed inconceivable at full time yesterday. Celtic supporters, after many long drab months, seized the chance to be euphoric and gathered outside the entrance to cheer the players as they emerged. It must be likely those scenes will be repeated and amplified after the final.

Warrington reach semi-final thanks to Davies

Castleford..... 22
Warrington..... 30

By Christopher Irvine

CASTLEFORD, bravely and determinedly, only just failed to make their numerical disadvantage add up in the first round of the Stones Bitter Premiership yesterday at Wheldon Road, where 12 Warrington players had prevailed five weeks earlier in the rugby league championship.

Tony Kemp's last appearance for the club — the stand-off half has signed for Leeds next season — ended miserably, with his dismissal in the opening seconds of the second half.

The offence was dissent but, after the flying fists and high tackles that had passed by the referee, Colin Morris, all afternoon the red card seemed ridiculously harsh.

Without the New Zealand-er, Castleford still went on to outscore Warrington three tries to one in the second half, and were it not for the unfailing kicking accuracy of Jonathan Davies, with two dropped goals and six goals, they might have had the necessary momentum.

The telling score for Warrington came from Southcote, two minutes after the teenager came onto the pitch, in the 57th minute. The cover was threadbare as he kicked through from a play-the-ball on Castleford's line and followed it up for a try that ensured the Yorkshire

Martin Offiah scored his ninth hat-trick of the season as Wigan beat Sheffield Eagles 48-16 in the first round of the premiership yesterday. The league champions play Warrington in the semi-finals next weekend. Leeds, who beat Bradford Northern 50-30 on Friday, play St Helens, who overcame Halifax 32-16 yesterday.

side were just about kept at arm's length.

Warrington's reward, if it could be described as such, is a semi-final at Wigan on Friday. Leeds meet St Helens on Sunday. The final at Old Trafford, on May 21, could offer Wigan the chance to complete the grand slam of the four domestic prizes.

Castleford deprived them of that achievement by winning the Regal Trophy last season. This year has been more of a struggle, and without Kemp and Blackmore, a try-scorer in either half, life could get considerably worse. It was astute work by Hay, picking up on Forster's woolf cross-field kick, that led to Blackmore's first try, which Goddard, his fellow centre, added to after escaping Elliott's ankle tap.

Sheffield was Warrington's saviour and architect. His solo try was the start of a devastating eight-minute spell in which 18 points were rattled up before the break.

The scrum half released Bateman and McGuire for tries, but Kemp's sending off affected the visitors more.

Davies kept cool in the crisis that gripped Warrington, as Blackmore, Middleton and Tony Smith seized on panic in their ranks. Crooks, however, managed only one of six goal attempts, whereas Davies could not fail.

SCORERS: Castleford: Tries: Blackmore (2), Goddard, Middleton, T Smith, Goals: Crooks. Warrington: Tries: Sheff, Bateman, McGuire, Middleton, Davies (2). Dropped goals: Davies (2).

WARRINGTON: J. Forster, C. Smith, R. Bateman, R. Crooks, S. Middleton, J. Kemp, T. Smith, L. Crooks, P. Delfy, J. Sheff, G. Ties (sub: M. Warrington, 26), G. Sanderson, B. McGuire, D. Elliot.

Referee: C. Morris.

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Blackburn face test of nerve

United's victory helps to keep up the pressure

Manchester United..... 1
Sheffield Wednesday..... 0

By Peter Ball

THE pressure is back on Blackburn Rovers tonight. Manchester United did what they had to do at a tense Old Trafford yesterday, beating Sheffield Wednesday to close the gap at the top to two points with two matches remaining.

As always, the championship is becoming a test of nerve. "It is going to be a very, very exciting finale to the season," Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said.

Blackburn know that they now have to keep their nerve to beat Newcastle this evening if they are to hold off United's challenge. Any other result and United can go to the top by beating Southampton at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Either way, the title will not be decided until next weekend when United visit West Ham and Blackburn go to Anfield.

"Next Sunday is going to be a real cliffhanger," Alex Ferguson said. "It has switched to them now."

United kept their nerve yesterday, just, but, after getting the best possible start with David May's goal after only six minutes, tension took over. Without Cantona and Kanchelskis, Keane, Bruce and Giggs, the young players showed their inexperience and

Ferguson said. "I'll pick the right team on Wednesday."

Yet for all the difficulties, in a game in which centre halves for various reasons were the main characters, Des Walker was the man of the match. If there is a better English centre half available to Venables, he has not been seen at Old Trafford this season.

Walker stood out when United threatened to claim the second goal which would have calmed their nerves in the final half-hour, but he was outstanding all through, holding the Wednesday defence together. Even so, United did look like scoring, which was more than could be said for Wednesday, the Sheffield side having one attempt on target all afternoon. Schmeichel has not conceded a Premiership goal at Old Trafford for 13 months; if he played against Wednesday every week, that record could extend for 13 years.

Full results and league tables Page 26

the second half seemed to last an hour as they gave the ball away with uncharacteristic regularity.

Fortunately for them, Sheffield Wednesday were unable to take advantage. The south Yorkshire team is ideal opposition in such circumstances, not kicking anybody and rarely threatening to score. Southampton and West Ham, for different reasons, will be more formidable.

"I picked the wrong side yesterday, I should have played Butt from the start,"

May has had an unhappy start to his career at Old Trafford, but he made an important contribution yesterday with the goal that could yet deny his former club the championship. A period of sustained pressure produced the goal. It recalled the freedom United had shown at Coventry last Monday when they announced their return to the race.

The spell began with Irwin finding Sharpe and running on to accept a perfect return and cut in on goal, Woods turning the shot around the post at full stretch. From the corner, Pallister headed on for May to have a clear header. Woods turned it on to the post and the ball was hacked away for a second corner, which proved decisive.

That was half-cleared but the ball reached Scholes, who beat a defender to the byline and pulled a pass back for



Ince joins May to celebrate the vital goal scored by the defender at Old Trafford yesterday

May to stab it home. May was to last 19 more minutes before the muscle torn in the warm-up ended his contribution, but he left to the warmest applause of his Old Trafford career so far.

Gary Neville was then switched to replace him. He

may not be the tall central defender Ferguson prefers but he brought to mind Martin Buchan, the outstanding United defender of the past 20 years, with his calmness and organisation. Wednesday did not trouble him.

United troubled themselves

as the crowd's tension began to communicate itself and they gave the ball away time after time. Yet they still looked the more likely side to score and, just before the hour, Cole outjumped two defenders to meet McClair's cross, only for Woods to save splendidly.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, D. May (sub: B. McClair, P. Ince, P. Scholes (sub: N. Butt, S. L. Sharpe — M. Hughes, A. Cole.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): C. Woods — P. Atkinson, A. Preece, D. Walker, J. Heiser — M. Williams, G. Hyde (sub: C. Waddie, G. J. Sheff, C. Bart-Williams — G. Whittingham (sub: A. Porch, S. J. M. Bright.

Referee: P. Dunn.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE				
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Blackburn	40	86	+41	WOLWL
2 Manchester Utd	40	84	+48	DWDWW
3 Nottm Forest	40	76	+10	WLDWL
4 Liverpool	40	71	+10	WLDWL
5 Newcastle	40	69	+10	WLDWL
6 Leeds	40	68	+10	WLDWL
7 Tottenham	40	61	+10	WLDWL
8 QPR	41	57	+1	LLLDW
9 Wimbledon	41	55	-12	LLDDD
10 Southampton	40	53	-12	WLDWL
11 Arsenal	41	51	-12	WLDWL
12 Chelsea	41	50	-6	WLDWL
13 Manchester City	41	49	-11	WLDWL
14 Sheffield Wed	41	48	-11	WLDWL
15 Aston Villa	41	46	-7	WLDWL
16 West Ham	40	46	-8	WLDWL
17 Everton	40	46	-8	WLDWL
18 Coventry	40	46	-20	LLWLL
19 Crystal Palace	40	45	-12	WLDWL
20 Norwich	40	42	-17	LLWLL
21 Leicester	41	28	-35	LLWLD
22 Ipswich	40	27	-53	LLWLD

Fans die in Lisbon accident

TWO people were killed and several others injured in an accident at the Jose de Alvalade stadium in Lisbon yesterday shortly before the football match between Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto, whose coach is the former England manager, Bobby Robson.

Witnesses quoted by a local news agency said the accident happened when a platform built above one of the gates to the stadium collapsed under the weight of spectators who had gathered for a match likely to decide the Portuguese championship.

Witnesses said that at least a dozen had been injured, while a member of an ambulance team said one person had died before reaching hospital.

Other Sporting Lisbon supporters said two of their colleagues had been killed in the incidents. Ambulance crews and firemen were quickly on the scene.

Tranmere face dilemma

Tranmere Rovers..... 1
Middlesbrough..... 1

By Louise Taylor

TRANMERE Rovers qualified for the play-offs yesterday but did nothing to suggest they would have any hope of survival in the FA Carling Premiership. Indeed, if John King's team were to triumph in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division play-off final at Wembley, one would be torn between congratulations and commiserations.

Sadly, this Tranmere team — and there are no significant funds to rebuild it — would be shredded at arenas such as Anfield, Old Trafford and St James' Park.

They are an ageing team — something highlighted by Nevill's slowness off the left wing starting blocks yesterday. He, Aldridge and Stevens are key players well past their prime — a trio of willing minds but fading legs.

McGreal, at centre half, looked a useful prospect and if Rovers fail to overcome Reading in their forthcoming play-off, he could well be sold.

Tranmere supporters felt betrayed when Peter Johnson,

their erstwhile benefactor, defected to Everton last year. How they would appreciate the irony if the club swapped divisions later this month.

One end of the ground remained a sea of celebratory red and white long after the final whistle and the public address made repeated requests for the Tiesiders to vacate the ground.

It was Tranmere, however, who took the lead seconds before half-time. Nevill's corner and Bramman's laid-back pass preceding Irons's swivel and shot from the edge of the area. Fielding a handful of



Fjortoft: easy goal

reserves, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, did not want to be accused of naming an understrength team and his half-time homily presumably provoked an increased second-half tempo. It brought a swift equaliser.

Nixon was undecided whether to come out and clear Cox's optimistic through pass or stay close to his line. He ended up caught in no-man's land, watching the ball fly beyond him. Attempting to salvage the situation, Jones — on the field for all of 30 seconds — inadvertently headed his interception against the woodwork from where it rebounded for Fjortoft to score from a foot out.

His goal proved a cue for a minor pitch invasion from jubilant Tiesiders but Robson's touchline language coaxed them back to their seats. Meanwhile, Jones, who had collided with Nixon, was still receiving treatment on the Preston pitch.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): E. Nixon — A. Thomas (sub: J. Kenworthy (33min)), S. McGreal (sub: G. Jones (30)), J. McGreal, G. Stevens — L. O'Brien, K. Jones, G. Bramman, P. Nixon — C. McKie, J. Aldridge.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-3): A. Miller — N. Cox, M. Pearson, S. Wilson, D. Whyte — C. Leake, P. Stamp, C. Morris — J. Herdrie (sub: C. Friesenro 70), J. A. Fjortoft, J. Moreno.

Referee: A. Flood.

Reading impress McGhee

Reading..... 2
Charlton Athletic..... 1

By Russell Kempson

IN DECEMBER, when Mark McGhee left Reading, of the Endsleigh Insurance League, for the delights of Leicester City, of the FA Carling Premiership, most aficionados from the backwaters of Berkshire football predicted a swift return to the depths of the first division and maybe beyond.

Though in sixth position at the time of McGhee's departure, many felt that his cultured influence and calm guidance was irreplaceable.

Yesterday, at Elm Park, Reading proved them wrong. Not in the style they may have wanted — it needed an 89th-minute header from Adrian Williams, the captain, to clinch victory — but it was enough to secure the runners-up slot behind Middlesbrough and a two-leg play-off against Tranmere Rovers.

McGhee's loss has been turned into Reading's gain under the joint player-manager-ship of Jimmy Quinn, the Northern Ireland forward, and Mick Gooding. Yet even though Reading could con-

ceivably replace Leicester in the Premiership, McGhee was magnanimous from his seat in the ITV studio. "They have done brilliantly," he said. "The team has improved since I left and look very solid."

Quinn and Gooding have performed admirably in their first tasks in management. Though the club is £500,000 in debt, and will lose £300,000 this season, they were allowed to spend £250,000 on Lee Nogan, from Watford.

Yesterday, he scored his sixth goal in five matches to give Reading an eighth-minute lead. Gooding supplied the pass and Nogan committed Peterson before curiously chipping the ball over the goalkeeper's diving body.

Apart from a frantic spell midway through the second half, when Nogan nodded against the crossbar, Reading lost their way. Charlton equalised in the 75th minute when Chandler, 18, making his debut after a six-week suspension for drug abuse, guided in Leaburn's flick-on.

Williams, though, saved the day. With Quinn, having just come on as a substitute, and the Charlton defence distracted, the Wales centre back powered a header past

Peterson. Quinn, Gooding and McGhee, to a degree, had done the job.

READING (3-5-2): S. Halseo — A. Bernal (sub: T. Jones, J. Farnley), K. Macpherson, A. Williams, D. Wilmore, M. Galloway — S. Taylor, S. Osborn, M. Gooding — S. Lovell (sub: J. Quinn, 89), L. Nogan.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A. Chandler — S. Newton, R. Rukia, D. Chandler, J. Stuart — M. Robinson, L. Sawyer, K. Jones, P. Linger (sub: M. Bennett, 70), C. Leaburn, D. Whyte (sub: M. Grant, 87).

Referee: P. Poole.

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Each entry must be accompanied by six tokens. The competition closes on May 27.



LING
ERSHIP

AWAY	Goal
D L F A P1 diff	
6 4 25 16 86 +41	
5 5 34 23 84 +48	
4 8 34 23 76 +29	
6 6 27 21 71 +30	
6 8 21 26 68 +20	
7 6 23 22 69 +19	
9 5 34 33 61 +10	
8 9 22 31 57 +1	
9 9 22 30 55 -17	
3 10 24 28 53 -1	
7 7 25 33 51 -4	
6 11 16 36 49 -10	
5 10 23 31 48 -11	
5 12 16 29 46 -7	
7 10 12 28 46 -8	
7 9 18 36 46 -20	
6 8 15 20 45 -12	
5 14 10 33 42 -17	
4 15 11 41 38 -25	
5 15 11 55 27 -53	

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league

AWAY	Goal
D L F A P1 Gh	
8 6 26 21 52 -17	
9 5 24 23 72 -12	
8 10 24 32 77 -12	
8 11 23 34 76 -13	
6 12 16 35 72 -13	
6 12 21 33 71 -13	
7 11 19 28 69 -13	
8 10 33 34 76 -13	
8 11 23 34 76 -13	
7 11 26 37 65 -13	
8 9 19 32 64 -13	
6 12 24 36 63 -13	
6 13 26 39 68 -13	
5 13 25 41 67 -13	
7 9 26 40 66 -13	
5 12 22 55 65 -13	
7 13 18 33 64 -13	
8 10 19 23 63 -13	
5 14 26 45 62 -13	
5 14 13 41 61 -13	
4 16 19 35 60 -13	
5 16 19 35 60 -13	

AWAY	Goal
D L F A P1 Gh	
9 5 24 23 72 -12	
8 10 24 32 77 -12	
8 11 23 34 76 -13	
6 12 16 35 72 -13	
6 12 21 33 71 -13	
7 11 19 28 69 -13	
8 10 33 34 76 -13	
8 11 23 34 76 -13	
7 11 26 37 65 -13	
8 9 19 32 64 -13	
6 12 24 36 63 -13	
6 13 26 39 68 -13	
5 13 25 41 67 -13	
7 9 26 40 66 -13	
5 12 22 55 65 -13	
7 13 18 33 64 -13	
8 10 19 23 63 -13	
5 14 26 45 62 -13	
5 14 13 41 61 -13	
4 16 19 35 60 -13	
5 16 19 35 60 -13	

Torrance in tense duel as he takes title again

FROM MEL WEBB IN MILAN

A MUGGY, airless afternoon in Northern Italy produced an appropriately breathless climax for the Italian Open yesterday as Sam Torrance had to draw on every last ounce of his vast experience to wring out the second Italian Open victory of his career with a closing 67 and a total of 269, 19 under par.

Torrance won £61,716 to move into second place in the order of merit with £114,254, and if he stays in the top five after the Volvo PGA Championship in three weeks' time he will gain automatic entry into the 124th Open Championship at St Andrews in July.

His first win for two years also took him from tenth to fifth place in the Ryder Cup list, with 207.313 points. It all added up to a handsome vindication of a late decision to play after he woke up on Thursday with a pain in his left thigh.

Less than 30 minutes before his tee-off time he had resigned himself to pulling out, and even phoned his bookmaker to cancel a £100 each way bet at 16-1 he had placed on himself to win at Le Roverede. It was only when the pain subsided a touch that he dragged himself onto the course and opened with a 69.

A course-record 63 on Saturday thrust him into a one-stroke lead, but only six shots separated the leading 15 players.

The last time the Scot, 41, won this title, in 1987, it was only after a play-off against José Rivero, and it was Rivero who put him under the heaviest of pressure again as he collected four birdies on the back nine to finish on 66.

Torrance birdied three of the first six holes, but wobbled when he drove behind a tree and dropped a shot on the

11th. He hit a green-side bunker on the 12th and came out to six feet. He went through the green on the 13th and had another six-footer to save par. He had a horrible shot on the edge of another green-side trap on the 14th got to six feet again. Each time his broomhandle putter came to his rescue. With Rivero snapping at his heels, Torrance had to stop saving pars and start making birdies. He did so, apparently coolly. He hit his second shot to the edge of the green of the par five 15th, putted seven feet above the hole and made the return for a birdie, then came out of the sand to 4½ ft to pick up another shot on the next.

His lead was two again, and his sixth birdie of the day at the last was little more than a crowd-pleasing irrelevance.

Torrance and Rivero completely dominated as rivals led by the wayside. Costantino Rocca had the best chance of the pursuers but found the pressure proved too much. Rocca finished third for third place with his fellow Italian, Emanuele Canonica. Mark Littin, Paul Broadhurst and Roman Rafferty.

Torrance, meanwhile, was reflecting on that telephone call to his turf accountant. "I should never have done it," he said with a smile. "But I think I've won enough." You can afford to be blasé about £2,000 that got away when you have just tucked a cheque for £61,000 into your back pocket.

FINAL SCORES (68 and 18 unless stated): 269: S Torrance 68, 70, 63, 67, 271; J Rivero 68, 70, 68, 63, 269; C Canonica 68, 69, 73, 68, 218; P Broadhurst 68, 67, 71, 69, 215; G Rocca 68, 68, 67, 73, 277; S Baker 71, 68, 71, 67, 278; N Briggs 68, 73, 70, 69, 268; S Grapagnani 69, 71, 68, 68, 266; P Hedholm 69, 73, 68, 69, 70, 269; D Drummond 72, 68, 70, 67, 69, 266; G Johnston 72, 67, 68, 71, 276; S Turner 67, 68, 73, 65, 263; F Forster 71, 67, 71, 70, 67, 266; A Sheraton 71, 68, 68, 72.



Torrance had to call on all his vast experience to secure his first win in two years

Davies hangs on to her lead

LAURA DAVIES was unable to match the pace she set in the first round of the Sara Lee Classic in Nashville, Tennessee, but retained a one-stroke lead after a three-under-par second round 69 on Saturday.

The British player had a two-day total of 11-under 133, one clear of Michelle McGann, who was on 134 after a 65 that included a tournament record of nine birdies.

"The putts just didn't go in today, but when you hole as many as I did yesterday, you can't expect too much," Davies said. "So to be honest, I'm really happy with a 69."

Davies started the day with a three-shot lead and birdied six, seven and eight. She missed four opportunities on the back nine, including a putt at the 480-yard 11th that circled the rim of the cup but trickled away.

However, she thought if she continued her bogey-free play she should become the event's first repeat champion.

McGann missed an eight-footer for par at the last but was looking forward to a final-round duel with Davies.

"We'll have fun," she said. "She's going to hit it. I'm going to hit it, and she's probably going to be 40 or 50 yards ahead of me, so I'll have to get my yardage quick."

□ The former British Walker Cup player, Stephen Keppeler, upstaged the PGA Tour's professionals on Saturday as he tied Jim Gallagher for the lead after the third round at the Atlanta Classic.

He joined Gallagher at 13-under 203 with one round to play, two strokes clear of John Daly, Mark Calcavecchia and Guy Boros.

Gallacher pips Sherry to win by one stroke

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN GALLACHER, 20, from Scotland, snatched the Lytham Trophy for amateurs from Gordon Sherry, his countryman, in dramatic style at Royal Lytham yesterday. Gallacher was seven strokes behind the 6ft 7in Sherry soon after the start of the fourth and final round, but a run of six threes was the basis for a 67, good enough for him to win by one stroke.

Sherry appeared to have the trophy in his massive grasp when he led by three strokes after 54 holes. To that point his progress had been stately and serene. He was unruffled by the wind and went for 36 holes without a bogey.

Craig Evans gave notice of a challenge when he set a course record of 66 in the cold and grey conditions yesterday morning when the temperature was 20 degrees lower than the day before.

The scoring really began to improve after lunch. Jonas Torines, of Sweden, and Padraig Harrington, the Walker Cup player, had 69s and Matsias Eliasson, another Swede, had a 68. Then came Gallacher's astonishing burst of threes which started at the eighth.

It was hard to believe such scoring on a course as tough as this one and it underlines just how good a prospect Gallacher is.

Gallacher attributed his burst to the extra practice he put in between rounds. He lunched on a sandwich eaten while he made repairs to his swing on the practice ground, striving to improve the rhythm of his downswing. Clearly, it worked.

"I tried to give Gordon a target to aim at," Gallacher, who finished 45 minutes before Sherry, said. In the event, Sherry could not match it.

LEADING FINAL-ROUND SCORES: 281: S Gallacher (Bathgate) 75, 68, 70, 67, 282; G Sherry (Kilmarnock, Glasgow) 70, 71, 69, 72, 282; M Eliasson (Sweden) 74, 71, 72, 68, 285; M Blackley (Haywards) 70, 69, 69, 72, 280; C Burke (West Yorkshire) 70, 71, 71, 71, 283; J Torines (Sweden) 75, 72, 72, 68; H Sheron (Sweden) 76, 70, 71, 71, 286; C Watson (East Renfrewshire) 68, 75, 74, 71, 280; M Brooks (Carlisle) 71, 72, 75, 72.

Motivating girls to win is an easy task at New Hall

BY JOHN GOODBODY

NEW Hall, in Chelmsford, is an unusual school. It has fascinating historical origins and is a contemporary centre of sporting talent. It is believed to be the oldest convent school in Britain. Founded in Liège in 1642, the school moved to Chelmsford in 1799, when the nuns were forced to leave Belgium after the French Revolution.

They settled in the Tudor Palace which had been a home of Henry VIII, Mary Tudor, the Duke of Buckingham and Oliver Cromwell. Their successors are 454 girls who have established a distinguished pedigree in sport across a variety of disciplines.

Teresa Cox, the head of PE for the past 21 years, believes that what motivates the girls more than anything else is "winning and succeeding in competition. They thrive on it. If you say 'this is a race', they will work ten times harder."

What has changed over the past 20 years? "Everyone is now more academically conscious. Girls are more anxious. There is more pressure on staff not to allow pupils to miss a lesson because of sport. There is also no way a girl could hand in, say, maths homework late because she was representing the school."

Girls who represent their counties or clubs outside the school are also told that they may have to forgo some social life. A typical example is Sarah Chandler, 16, who two years ago won the 100 metres butterfly for England in the home international tournament. She gets up at 4.50am, swims for two hours with the Havering Killervales, has a sandwich breakfast on the way to New Hall and is back in the pool at 5.15pm for another two-hour session. Bed follows two hours of homework.

She said: "I enjoy it. I would not do it otherwise, although I am tired a lot of the time." What does she do during the holidays? "Well, I spend half of each day asleep."

There are occasional injuries. Anna Campbell, 13, was

third in the British schools gymnastics championships but fell off the beam, damaging her knee. Six months ago, she threw away her crutches and returned to the sport she chose instead of ballet and tap dancing ("I was too 'hyper' for them").

Another girl, Joanna Williams, is the British under-13 speed-skating champion, whose six brothers and sisters, two of whom are at New Hall, all practise the sport. Their mother, Susan Williams, jokes: "It can be confusing since some skate in the same category. But at least people know if the Williamses are taking part, there will be enough entries to run a competition."

Rowena Ockendon-Day



rides after school every day at her Felsted home. She has represented England six times as a show jumper and is aiming for selection at the 1995 European junior championships.

Hayley Coward-Talbot and Elaine Hake are leading netball players and Dominique Tobbell has played in goal for England Under-16 at hockey, although she plays at centre half for New Hall to stop herself from getting bored.

Why does this school produce such a variety of talent? Cox said: "The whole set-up here encourages them to develop themselves and there remains a cachet about getting picked for the school teams, and outstanding individual successes are also announced at assemblies."

THE TIMES GOLF MASTERS CHALLENGE

Win US Golf trips and Wilson clubs

Plus £25,000 for the player with the best score over 18 holes

Seven under par
J Lee, Cleethorpes
Six under par
P Eccles, Belfast
J O'Neill, Harpenden
Five under par
J Lee, Cleethorpes
Four under par
J O'Neill, Harpenden
A Anderson, Arnsley
Three under par
R Chishwick, Scarborough
Two under par
J Lee, Cleethorpes
M Wiggins, Beaconsfield
One under par
J Hogan, Winal
R Land, Leeds
Level par
J Lee, Cleethorpes
D Wood, Canterbury
J O'Neill, Harpenden
P Brit, Bromley
One over par
G Miller, Nottingham
R Hoggan, Witney
D Grey, Bishop Auckland
Two over par
M Harrop, Chipping Norton
S Lomas, Teedlington
A Malkin, Bockenhall

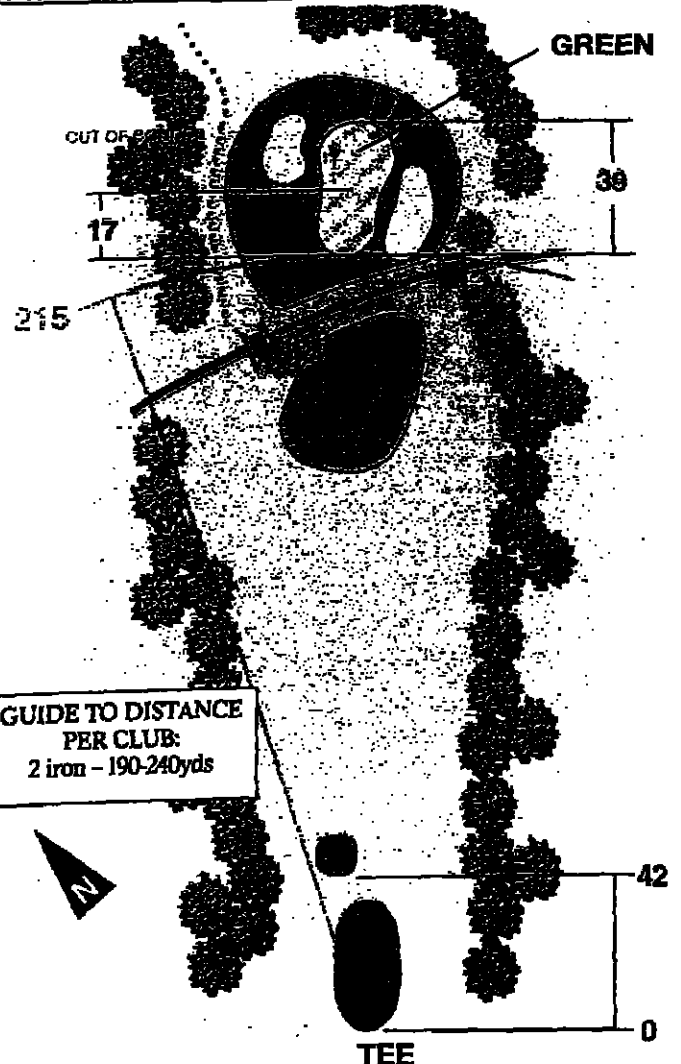


TODAY'S hole in our Golf Masters Challenge features the 12th at The Belfry, played by Nick Faldo in the 1993 Ryder Cup. This is a 23yd par three and Faldo completed it in three shots.

Taking a moderate north wind into account, he teed off with a No 2 iron, then used a putter for his second and third shots.



The Bucks Classic live on Sky, May 18-21, one of 31 tournaments from the US PGA tour



GUIDE TO DISTANCE PER CLUB:
2 iron - 190-240yds

strokesaver
GOLF'S No 1 DISTANCE GUIDE

Today we publish the 18th hole in the Golf Masters Challenge accompanied by details of how many shots a leading professional golfer, Nick Faldo, took to play the hole, the clubs he used and the prevailing weather conditions. The 17th hole appears in The Sunday Times next week.

To play today's hole study the Strokesaver map taking into account the yardage guides which give both distances from the tee and yardages to the green. They also show obstacles that might prevent the golfer from hitting the ball in a straight line, such as water and trees.

Using your skill and judgment estimate how far each shot travelled, in yards. Then pick up the 'phone, dial the appropriate Hotline, follow the instructions and key in your answers (you will need a touchtone telephone and calls will last for about four minutes; calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times).

Try to match the yardage of each shot taken by the featured golf professional and you could win any of three different prizes:

The £25,000 accumulator prize can only be won by readers who play all 18 holes during the nine weeks of The Times/The Sunday Times Golf Masters Challenge. If you have already played the first 15 holes ring 0891 66 55 16 and quote your Pin number to play the 16th hole. This number automatically enters accumulator players for the daily prize and the second stage of the seventh weekly prize. A weekly leaderboard will chart the progress of the top entrants.

The weekly prize. This is for all readers who play today's hole and the hole published in The Sunday Times yesterday. The person who has the best score over the two holes will win a luxury golf holiday worth up to £27,000. To play for the weekly and daily prizes ring 0891 40 16. Accumulator players do not need to call this number.

The daily prize. The reader with the lowest score on a single hole will win a full set of Wilson golf clubs including a golf bag and Ultra balls. To play for the daily prize, ring 0891 66 55 01.

The success of your play is calculated by a simple scoring system: you will be penalised one point for every yard your estimate varies from the exact yardage taken by the golfing professional for his shot. The total variance in points is then transferred into a golfing equivalent: 0-4 points = 2 under par, 5-8 points = 1 under par, 9-15 points = par, 16-19 points = 1 over par, 20-25 points = 2 over par, 26 points and over = three over par. This scoring mechanism is a final modification and is slightly more sensitive than the original published on March 19.

Golf Masters Challenge
CUMULATIVE HOTLINE:
0891 66 55 16
WEEKLY HOTLINE:
0891 40 50 16
DAILY HOTLINE:
0891 66 55 01

Enter for today's hole in the Golf Masters Challenge on the website www.golfmasterschallenge.co.uk or by telephone on 0891 66 55 16. American Airlines is the trademark of American Airlines Inc. Destinations include flights with American Eagle, which is American Airlines regional airline subsidiary. Schedules and service are subject to change without notice.



Win a holiday to California

FOR readers who play today's hole and the hole published in The Times tomorrow there is the chance of winning a holiday worth £7,000. This week's destination is La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, near San Diego, California. This world famous "total resort" in the heart of Southern California, boasts a 21-court racket club, health spa and two par-72 championship golf courses.

The company Great Golf Resorts of the World, which specialises in luxury golfing holiday resorts, has combined with American Airlines and Avis car rental to provide a dream holiday for two people as a weekly prize for the Golf Challenge.

Each weekly winner and a companion will fly business class with American Airlines. They will stay for five nights in luxury accommodation, with breakfast provided.

Winners will have three rounds of golf on a championship course.

American Airlines is the largest US transatlantic carrier, with non-stop flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham (from May 26) to eight American gateway cities, with connections to nearly 300 destinations in the US, the Caribbean, Latin America and Japan. This summer American will increase its service from Heathrow to New York/JFK, Chicago and Boston.

For further information on resorts featured, telephone American Airlines Holidays (ATOL 2706) on 01703 465885.

American Airlines

Win a set of clubs at every hole

THE reader who gets the best score on each of the 18 holes in the Golf Masters Challenge will win a set of superb Wilson golf clubs worth £1,400 — including a golf bag and the latest technology Ultra 500 golf balls to get you rolling. The set is made up of Wilson Staff Midsize irons and Killer Whale Midsize woods. The irons are designed with perimeter weighting and a generous sweetspot to give maximum accuracy and forgiveness. The Killer Whale woods are reputed to be the longest-hitting clubs on the US PGA tour.

Wilson

The Right Equipment Makes The Difference



David Harris is the featured player in the Sunday Times next week. Watch him on the final at St Andrews in the 1994 British Open.

Wave of popular support marks sea change in attitudes

The haunting music of the Peruvian pan-pipes floated across the Rowley Mile yesterday and with it disappeared the last vestiges of winter's Old Fats. Sunday May 8 deserves to go down in history as the day racing in Britain was re-born and Will Carling would have approved.

As 20,000 people sucked ice lollies, lounged and picnicked on the grass or just had a jolly good time while temperatures soared into the high 50s at Newmarket, it was impossible to avoid thinking things will never be the same again. Thank heavens for that.

"I can't help but feel that God would not have given us

this kind of weather if he hadn't approved of Sunday racing." Peter Player, the chairman of Newmarket racecourse, reflected before the prize-giving for the Madagans 1,000 Guineas.

Player and Bernard Gover, the driving force behind Madagans, are the unlikely duo who deserve the credit for making the first Guineas Festival with a Sunday finale work so well. Quality racing has never been in short supply at Headquarters but for too long the customer has been all but ignored unless he or she happened to have access to the Jockey Club boxes or the plush boxes overlooking the course.

Crèches, nightclubs, and

Not any more. Customers now matter as much as horses and fun and enjoyment are every bit as important as form figures at Newmarket. At long last racing is being run for people and not for those in charge.

It may have taken many years to achieve the new order, but for racehorses every day offers the prospect of a changing world. On Saturday morning the Triple Crown beckoned for Celtic Swing. By Saturday evening,



Richard Evans sees Newmarket **greet the day on which a new** **order in British racing was born**

Peenemkamp is now as short as 5-4 on for the Derby and if you place any faith in the assessment of the official British Horseracing Board handicappers, not to mention the thoughts of André Fabre, the warmest such a slimy prize. Richard Darvill, the elevated Peenemkamp clock is a rating of 130 and denoted Celtic Swing 1lb to 129.

"It had to be a very good Guineas. It was a terrific time given the steady early pace and we can savour what is to come for the rest of the season," he said yesterday.

We did not have to wait long. The victory of Harayir in the 1,000 Guineas tugged at the emotion. Dick Herkroes, you know, was

ing adversity than the rest of the training fraternity put together. Confined to his wheelchair, he was beset by well-wishers, led by John Dunlop, trainer of the runner-up, Aqarid. "I could not be more delighted," Dunlop told Hurn, "and you knew he meant it, well, almost."

Richard Hills, his voice quivering with emotion after a first classic riding success, confided: "It was the greatest moment of my life. Thank you very much."

Eventually alone, Hurn allowed himself a quiet chuckle. Oh, to have known his thoughts. One thing is certain: the pleasure on his face summed up the day for thousands of people.

**Hem: classic success**

Carson misses out on celebration as rejected filly provides Hills with dream ride

Harayir assumes command for Hern

Julian Muscat reports
on a classic success
conducted with a
military precision

IT WAS achieved with a military precision. As a swarm of heads of state celebrated VE-Day in London's Hyde Park yesterday, Major Dick Hern, a former Churchill tank commander with the North Irish Horse regiment, commanded the pastures of Normandy when Harayir routed her opposition in the Madagans 1,000 Guineas.

But there was an unpleasant sting in the tail for Willie Carson, with whom Hern has shared many a previous triumph. There was to be no celebrating last night for the Scottish-born jockey. He had rejected the mount on Harayir for the promise of Aqaarid. And he will have recognised

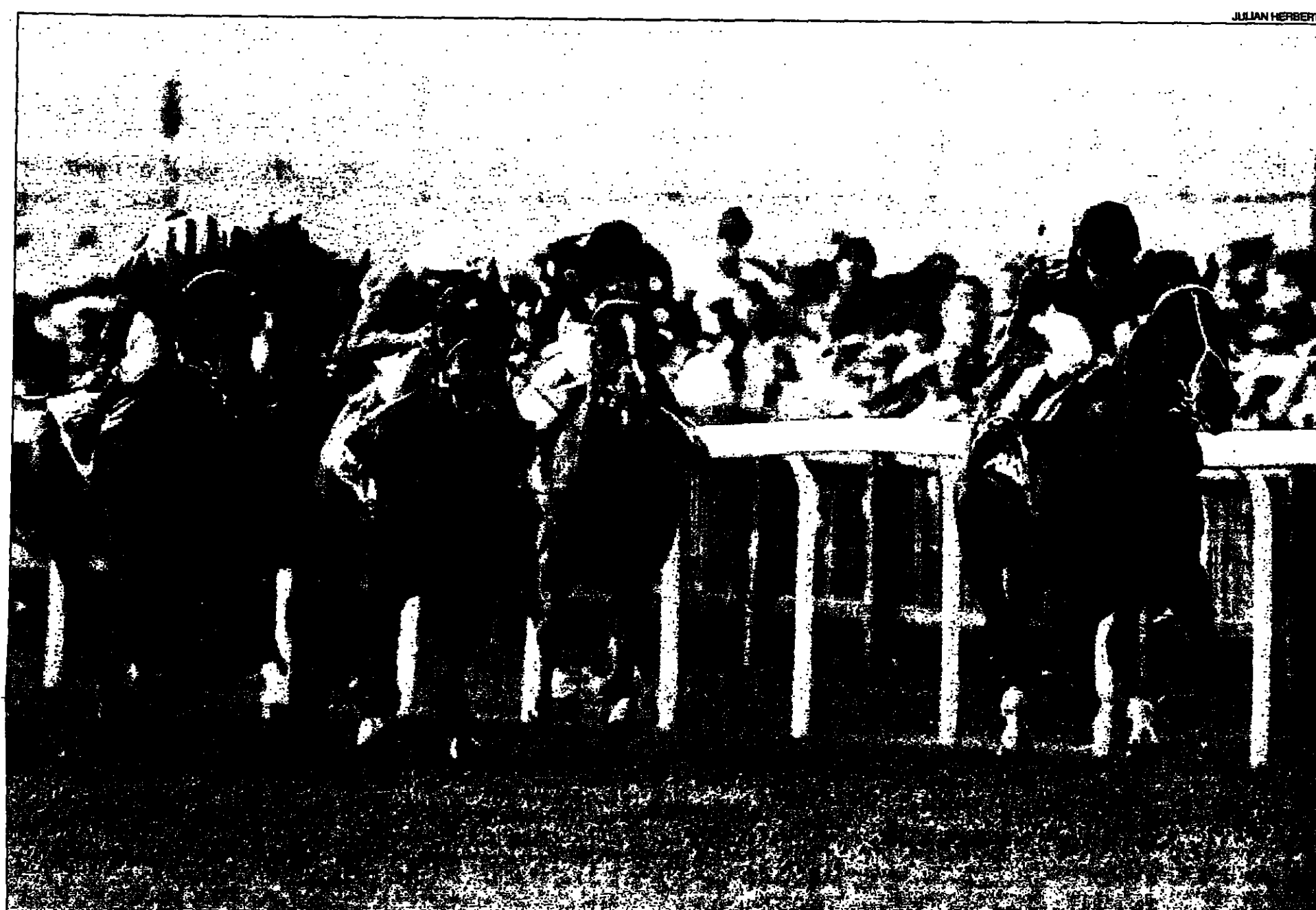
BIG RACE DETAILS

3.45 MADAGASCAN 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (Group 1) 3-Y-O. £10,719 (1:1m)
HARAYIR B f Gulch - Saffron f (H)
 Makdum 3-0 R H (5-1) f (H)
 Agassir 2 f Nushan - Aesher f (H)
 Al Makdum 3-0 R H (5-1) f (H)
 Mogensh 2 f Sackler's Wells - Moyn
 cactus Makdum Al Makdum / Gaddi
 prince 3-0 L Desford (5-1)
 10.50 **THE CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN** (5H)
 Epagic (Sh), Myself, 10 Gay Gallants, 16
 Hot Magic (4th), 40 All Time Great,
 14 Annabel, 100 Fleet Hk, 150 Belling On
 The Clock, 200 Twister Girl, 200 Waverley Green,
 200 Wm. NP: Best Gallants, 112, 341, 21, 361,
 116 W Hm at Lambton, Total £33,100,
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 202 50, CFS 131.31, 1mm 36.72sec.

his error well before halfway in this eight-furlong classic.

There was hope for as long as Aqarid's bravest kept on in contention, but the quality alone is rarely enough and Richard Hills, who deputised aboard Harayir, always held the heavy artillery. Two furlongs from the finish, as Epagris, Moonshell and Aqarid launched their attacks in unison, Hills simply loosened his hold on Harayir and the contest was over.

As the jockey, riding his first British classic winner, later put it: "I pulled her out and showed her daylight, and she said I'll go when you want me to. When I asked her, she flew. It was the greatest moment of my life." It was the letter to Hills, who is now riding with new-found confidence as Hamdan Al-Maktoum's second jockey.



Harayir, right, is confidently driven out by Hills to hold the challenges of Aqaarid, left, and Moonshell in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket yesterday.

Classic races come naturally to horses like Harayir, who, after the victory of Thunder Gulch in the Kentucky Derby, was a second classic winner in 24 hours for her sire, Gulch. The key ingredient is speed, which Harayir has always possessed in abundance. Although she had yet to tackle the distance of yesterday's race, Hern had no doubt about her inherent stamina. It is the combination of these two assets which makes a dominant cocktail.

Harayir is a third 1,000 Guineas winner for Sheikh Hamdan, whose Aqarid, an

honourable second ahead. of Moonshell and Epagris, looks a natural for the Oaks. With Sheikh Mohammed's Pennekamp successful in the 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, there is every possibility that the brothers from Dubai will emerge triumphant in all five of Britain's classic races for the first time.

But this was emphatically Hern's day. By some distance the most successful classic trainer at present licenced in Britain, Hern, 74, has overcome great physical and personal hardship. Now confined to a wheelchair, he was in-

stalled at Kingwood House Stables, a state-of-the-art establishment, after his dismissal from West Usley as the royal trainer six years ago.

That project was financed as a statement of faith by Sheikh Hamdan after Hern trained his Nashwan, the outstanding Derby winner of 1989. "To me, he just lost his leg but not his mind," the Sheikh said of his man. "He is a great trainer. Harayir was the better filly on the day; I don't think the ground helped Aqaard."

John Dunlop, who trains Aqaard, was equally magnanimous in defeat. And his

reaction, on meeting Hern in the winner's enclosure, was generous in the extreme. "I could not be more delighted," he told his colleague.

Later, as the first wave of disappointment set in, Dunlop added: "I am a great admirer of the Major. He is one of the best men in racing, if not the best. To my mind, the only better outcome would have been if my filly had won. She couldn't get enough cover from her draw but the winner had that much more speed."

In landing his sixteenth British classic, Hern's thoughts turned instinctively

towards Carson, his long-time ally. "I'm desperately sorry for Willie," he said. "He has been right so often; by the law of averages he had to be wrong some time. He loves this folly. It was a very difficult decision for him."

Carson reflected: "Harayir had more speed and mine couldn't quicken on the ground. But mine's run a super Oaks trial. I'm sorry I chose the wrong one but that's the way it goes."

Frankie Dettori was equally pleased with Moonshell on her first outing since Doncaster last October. "She's run a

lovely race. To be third in a classic on your second run is a remarkable achievement."

However, Carson is now faced with another predicament. On this, the fifteenth anniversary of VE-Day, it is enticing to report that Harary, Agaarid and Moonshell are all projected to meet again. We know where, and we know when: in the Oaks at Epsom on June 9. Allied to the budding rivalry between Pennekamp and Celtic Swing, racegoers are in for a memorable summer.

2,000 Guineas, page 30

photograph from Desert Courier and Tarhiib. The Warning colt is now likely to be prepared for the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Master Planner secured his second successive victory in the R L Davison Rated Handicap — much to the surprise of his trainer, Charles Cyzer. "I thought he would need the race today. He was about 15 kilos over his best racing weight and this has made me look a bit silly," he said.

Master Planner is likely to turn out again in another six-furlong handicap at York's Dante meeting later this month.

In good company on special Sunday

The doors of St Agnes Church in Newmarket were firmly closed mid-morning. The congregation who had ignored the alternative attractions of the town's festival on a beautiful day were safely gathered in.

A few minutes late for the start of Matins, I did not presume to disturb them and so wandered back into the town centre where the doors of the Ladbrokes betting shop were wide open and eager for business on the historic first day of Sunday betting on and off course. Canon Smith at St Agnes might have to rethink his marketing strategy if Anglican gates are to survive the crumbling barricades of the keep-Sunday-sacred campaign.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the preachers were nowhere to be found amid the capacity crowd on Newmarket Heath. No hellfire, no damnation — not unless you came within earshot of Willie Carson, who, for once, picked the wrong one in the feature race, the Madagans 1,000 Guineas.

I knew how he felt, of course. Two seconds and two thirds in the first four races might have been consistent enough for the placepot, but they troubled the sleep of

Andrew Longmore samples the atmosphere at Newmarket on an historic day for racing

the bookmakers, who have quickly discovered that money can be reeled in on the seventh day as easily as all the others.

It was all Derek Thompson's fault. I happened to overhear the Channel 4 pundit informing the Lord's Taverners' lunch that Watch the Clock had been working superbly and was a certainty in the second, and that Moonshell was a "work-beater" and would counter home in the 1,000 Guineas. Close, Derek, both times. If there is one breed of tipster worse than jockeys . . . Serves

The one, inescapable, problem with the home of racing is that, unless you have access to the telescope at Jodrell Bank, much of the racing itself takes place in the imagination. Despite the large video screen, the energetic camera-work, and the smooth commentary, it is hard to distinguish one dot on the horizon from another. By the time the horses emerge from the distance, like fighter planes from the sun, the action is often all

But, what does it matter when you can parade down the shopping mall and ponder the purchase of a judge's statue made of reinforced concrete and hand-painted in your own racing colours? One metre high, nearly life-size, and a snip at £300. Life might have been the more appropriate material for Carson as Hararyr, the horse he rejected, cantered home in the big race.

(El.30), the bouncing castles and the slides. Families spread out on the grass as if enjoying an afternoon in their own gardens, the free crèche was full, impromptu games of football and tennis flourished in the sunning, and the matter of picking winners came a distant second to Mr Punch's unequal struggle with the crocodile. "Look behind you," Richard Hills, rider of Harayir, did not have to bother. I stayed awhile without change of fortune.

Back in the paddock, I took refuge from the crowds and the sun under the shade of a tree dedicated to the memory of Dawson Waugh, who trained Taafile to win the

Derby in 1912. Dawson would not have recognised the Heath with its spanking new executive-style brick clubhouse and its handsome offices, but he would have understood the atmosphere and doubtless applauded the return of the family to the racecourse.

By evensong, only one man looked less than enthusiastic about the festivities. Not a Seventh-Day Adventist, but a salesman flogging heavy woollen knitwear. Well, as Willie Carson said, you can't win them all.

Newmarket

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

First double

APPRENTICE rider Dane O'Neill, 19, gained the first double of his career in front of a record 10,000 crowd at Salisbury yesterday on Christmas Kiss and Ortolan. Both are trained by his boss, Richard Hammon.

Christmas Kiss won the Woodford Maiden Stakes by three lengths from Silver Sting and the double was completed an hour later on Ortolan in the Salisbury Conditions Stakes.

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Time: 1:40; **ST:** 51.20; **22.00**; **22.00**; **DF:** 54.00; **DF:** 52.20; **CSF:** 28.15.
Pacepot: 1259.40. **Quandpo:** 271.10.

First double for O'Neill

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favourite. Passion For Life, a furlong out Ortoian had quickened six lengths clear by the line and he clearly has a bright future.

The Paul Mellon-owned Blaze Away caught Pride Of May and Wings Cove in the dying strides of the Smith and Williamson Handicap. Trainer Ian Balding, a director at the course, considers the winner could be just the type for Newcastle's Northumberland

Part two of a guide to English Heritage sites that will give free admission to thousands of Times readers next month



Britain's most mysterious monument: Stonehenge in Wiltshire, built about 5,000 years ago and still one of the country's most astounding engineering feats; each year thousands of visitors flock to Salisbury Plain to see the stones

Passport to the treasures of Britain

This summer *The Times*, in association with pensions specialist NPI, has joined English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association to offer readers unprecedented access to Britain's national heritage. From June to September, readers will be able to visit 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales at reduced prices — just collect six tokens and obtain your Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain to qualify for the discounts.

As a bonus to launch the campaign, English Heritage is offering free access to passport-holders and their children at more than 130 properties during the weekend of June 3/4. Listed below are some of the sites that will waive entrance fees for Times/NPI passport-holders that weekend. Details of other properties appeared in *The Times* last Saturday. Back copies can be ordered by telephoning 0171-726119.

Lanercost Priory
Nr Brampton, Cumbria
Augustine priory, founded in about 1166.

Launceston Castle
Launceston, Cornwall
Shell keep and tower of a Norman castle; commanding views of countryside.

Lindisfarne Priory
Holy Island, Northumberland
One of the most important early centres of Christianity in England.

Longthorpe Tower
Nr Peterborough, Cambs
Finest example of 14th-century domestic wall paintings in northern Europe.

Lullingstone Villa
Nr Eynsford, Kent
Roman country villa with splendid mosaic tiled floors.

Lulworth Castle
Lulworth, Dorset
Built in the 16th century as a hunting lodge; transformed into a country house in the 18th century.

Lyddington Bede House
Lyddington, Leicestershire
Originally a medieval palace of the bishops of Lincoln.

Marble Hill House
Twickenham, west London
Magnificent Palladian villa built in 1724-29 for the Countess of Suffolk.

Medieval Merchant's House
Southampton, Hampshire
Faithfully restored 13th-century town house.

Middleham Castle
Middleham, North Yorkshire
Childhood home of Richard III with massive keep.

Monk Bretton Priory
Nr Barnsley, South Yorkshire
Ruins of a Cluniac monastery founded in 1153.

Mortimer's Cross Water Mill
Nr Leominster, Hereford & Wores
Intriguing 18th-century mill, still in working order.

Mount Grace Priory
Nr Thirsk, North Yorkshire
Carthusian monastery founded in 1398; fully restored monk's cell.

Muchelney Abbey
Somerset
Remains of cloisters and Benedictine abbey's lodging.

Okehampton Castle
Nr Okehampton, Devon
Ruins of the largest castle in Devon; includes Norman motte and keep.

Old Bishop's Palace
Wolsey, Hampshire
Chief residence of the bishops of Winchester; one of the greatest of England's medieval buildings.

Row III Houses
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Two 17th-century row houses, a type unique to Great Yarmouth.

Old Sarum
Nr Salisbury, Wiltshire
Massive Iron Age hillfort, reused by the Romans, Saxons and Normans before growing into one of the most flourishing settlements in medieval England.

Old Warden Castle
Nr Tisbury, Wiltshire
Unusual hexagonal ruins set beside a beautiful lake.

Orford Castle
Orford, Suffolk
Built for coastal defence in the 12th century; magnificent 90ft keep.

Osborne House
Nr East Cowes, Isle of Wight
Bought by Queen Victoria in 1845 and extensively rebuilt by Prince Albert; set in 1,000 acres.

Pendennis Castle
Pendennis Head, Cornwall
Part of Henry VIII's coastal defences.

Pevensey Castle
Pevensey, Sussex
Medieval castle, including the remains of an unusual keep.

Peveril Castle
Castleton, Derbyshire
Perched high above Castleton, with spectacular views.

Pickering Castle
Pickering, North Yorkshire
Splendid motte and bailey castle, once a royal ranch; well-preserved walls, towers and keep.

Portchester Castle
Portchester, Hampshire
Residence of kings and a rallying point for troops; nearly 2,000 years old.

Portland Castle
Portland, Dorset
One of the best preserved of Henry VIII's coastal forts.

Prudhoe Castle
Prudhoe, Northumberland
Extensive remains of a 12th-century castle, including a gatehouse, curtain wall and keep.

Chapter House and Museum
Westminster Abbey, London
Built by the royal masons in 1250, the Chapter House contains fine medieval English sculpture.

Ranger's House
Blackheath, southeast London
Handsome red-brick villa built in



Chapters of English history: Sibsey Trader Windmill in Lincolnshire, left, and the imposing Marble Hill House in London



Showcase: Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, bought by Queen Victoria in 1845 and rebuilt on Italian lines by Prince Albert

about 1700, with a splendid bow-windowed gallery.

Restormel Castle
Nr Lostwithiel, Cornwall
Surrounded by a deep moat; well-preserved circular keep.

Richborough Castle
Nr Sandwich, Kent
Fort and township dating back to the Roman landing of 43 AD.

Richmond Castle
Richmond, North Yorkshire
Splendid medieval fortress; fine 12th-century keep and 11th-century remains of the curtain wall.

Rievaulx Abbey
Rievaulx, North Yorkshire
Some of the most spectacular monastic ruins in England, dating from the 12th century.

Roche Abbey
Nr Malby, South Yorkshire
Cistercian monastery, founded in 1147.

Rochester Castle
Rochester Bridge, Kent
Grand Norman bishop's castle with 100ft-high keep, founded on the Roman city wall; an important royal stronghold for centuries.

Royal Citadel
Totnes, Devon
Dramatic 17th-century fortress, still in use today.

Rushmore Triangular Lodge
Nr Rushmore, Northamptonshire
Built by Sir Thomas Tresham in 1593; the building symbolises the Holy Trinity.

Rye House Chapel
Nr Thame, Oxfordshire
Peaceful 15th-century chapel with exquisite woodwork.

St Augustine's Abbey
Canterbury, Kent
Founded in 598; one of the earliest monastic sites in southern England.

St Mawes Castle
St Mawes, Cornwall
Built by Henry VIII; three huge circular bastions with gun ports.

St Paul's Monastery and Bede's World Museum
Jarrow, Tyne & Wear
Home of the Venerable Bede. Saxtead Green Post Mill.

Nr Framlingham, Suffolk
Still in working order and full of mill machinery.

Totnes Castle
Totnes, Devon
Superb motte and bailey castle, with splendid views to the River Dart.

Tynemouth Priory and Castle
Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear
Castle walls and gatehouse enclose the substantial remains of a Benedictine priory founded in about 1090.

Upnor Castle
Upnor, Kent
Well-preserved 16th-century gun fort, built to protect Queen Elizabeth I's warships.

Vindolanda Fort
Nr Twice Brewed, Nthmb
Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall, extensively excavated.

Wall Roman Site
(Leicestershire)
Nr Lichfield, Staffordshire
Remains of a staging post, with site museum.

Walmer Castle
Nr Walmer, Kent
One of the forts built along the south coast by Henry VIII; then transformed into a stately home.

Warkworth Castle
Warkworth, Northumberland
Magnificent eight-towered keep on a hill above the River Croquet; home of Harry Hotspur, the warrior immortalised in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*.

Warkworth Hermitage
Warkworth, Northumberland
Curious hermitage upstream by boat from Warkworth Castle; cut into the rock of the river cliff.

Wenlock Priory
Much Wenlock, Shropshire
Ruins of a large Cluniac priory in an attractive garden setting.

Whitby Abbey
Nr Whitby, North Yorkshire
One of the most devout outposts of religious life in England and a double monastery for monks and nuns until the Vikings destroyed it in 867; Bram Stoker chose the ruins as a setting for *Dracula*.

Wingfield Manor
Nr South Wingfield, Derbyshire
Huge, ruined medieval country mansion, built in the mid-15th century; open to the public for the first time this year.

Witley Court
Nr Worcester, Hereford & Wores
Spectacular ruins of a once-great house; adjoining church has a remarkable baroque interior.

Wrest Park House
Nr Silsoe, Bedfordshire
Once the home of the de Grey family; acres of garden originally laid out in the early 18th century.

Wroxeter Roman City
Wroxeter, Shropshire
Excavated centre of the fourth largest city in Roman Britain; remains of 2nd-century baths.

Yarmouth Castle
Yarmouth, Isle of Wight
Last of Henry VIII's coastal defences; completed in 1547.

After the June 3/4 event, production of the Times/NPI passport at any Treasures of Britain site will entitle the holder to a range of summer concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most properties. For further information on English Heritage sites and membership details, telephone 0171-973344.

THE CAMPAIGN

THE 1995 Times/NPI Treasures of Britain campaign offers readers exclusive discounts at 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales this summer.

Organised in conjunction with English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association, the campaign covers monuments, abbeys, castles, palaces, stately homes, manor houses, country parks and formal gardens from June to September.

To visit these sites at a discount, readers must obtain the Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain. Full details appear below.

From Saturday until the end of September, *The Times* will publish a weekly column in the Weekend section advising readers on special events and concessions at historic sites.

Each week, *The Times* is publishing an AA-recommended tour guide incorporating heritage sites. The next guide will appear in Saturday's *Car 95*.

WHAT TO DO

To receive a passport, simply collect six tokens from *The Times*. The first was printed on April 29; the final token will appear this Saturday. Then complete the coupon below and send it with the six tokens and a first-class stamp to: The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.

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Legendary: Tintagel, said to be King Arthur's birthplace

An unlikely outbreak of peace

'Two Haberdashers' Aske's To age 16, almost all subjects are

To age 16, almost all subjects are



And now this is all happening in an


presented on the local post-16 group. Informal contacts with staff in other schools are now being confirmed on a more formal footing — to everyone's relief and delight. A growing number of Haberdashers' students do work-experience placements in Lewisham council. As Jim Skinner, deputy principal, says: "Working with people brings down barriers."

COLIN HOLLOWAY
 ● The author is the Headmaster of King's College Junior School, Wimbledon, and chairs the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools

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TODAY: What the test at the end of junior school is aiming to achieve — plus extension papers for the high-flyers

A measure of progress at 11

John O'Leary reassures parents who fear this test is a thinly disguised return to the 11-plus, and a tool for selection

Next week the last brick in the Government's assessment plans will finally fall into place. The tests for 11-year-olds, resisted by teachers and reduced to a dry run last year, will be taken by the whole age group for the first time.

More public attention has been focused on testing at seven (because it came first) and at 14 (because of the unions' boycott), but the new exercise has attracted just as much controversy in schools. There have been the usual disagreements over style and content, but the real concern this time has been over the way the results will be used.

Many junior school teachers see the potential for their twin bogies: league tables and selection. For the moment, however, their fears have been allayed.

The publication of league tables has been put on hold, and 11-year-olds sit the tests too late in the year for secondary schools to use the results to select pupils.

That has not stopped opponents of the tests from dubbing their introduction a "return to the 11-plus". But, in reality, next week's papers will bear little relation to the entrance examinations used by grammar schools or the independent sector.

The 11-plus, which is still used by a number of authorities, is basically an IQ test concentrating on literacy and numeracy, while independent school entrance examinations also have a narrower focus than the national curriculum tests.

Next week's tests adopt a completely different style. They are designed to fit in with regular classroom activity and to measure pupils' progress in key areas of the curriculum.

Tony Mills, the senior spokesman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, says: "Most children will already know what school they are attending in September, so there is no question of the tests being used for selection. The intention is to inform parents, teachers and others about children's achievements at the end of the longest key stage in their education."

The tests, which run throughout next week, cover English, mathematics and science, with a separate session on spelling and handwriting. They will feature topics from all four years of junior school, between the ages of seven and 11.

Robin Peverett, the education director of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, many of which took part in last year's pilot, says: "The great thing about the national curriculum tests is that they judge what level pupils have reached in particular skills. There is no way we could do that with entrance exams, just as we could not use the new tests to allocate places because the levels are too broad."

About a third of prep schools are expected to take the tests, although many will use them as end-of-year examinations. Almost two-thirds of those involved in last year's pilot approved of the English tests, with a lower rating for mathematics and fewer than half rating the science paper highly.

State school heads are reserving judgment, although few are expected to refuse to administer the tests. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, says: "The number of 11-year-olds not taking the tests will be minimal. We will carry out our own evaluation later in the year."

The heads' biggest concern is the eventual revival of league tables compiled from the 11-year-olds' results. National publication is unlikely with 18,000 primary schools involved, but local primary school leagues would create considerable interest among parents.



Please sir: the tests at 11 feature topics covered throughout all four years of primary school

There are at present no published statistics which can be used to compare schools before the secondary phase of education.

Schools are already obliged to publish their results, and to give parents averages for the local authority area with their children's grades. So enterprising parents would not find it difficult to make their own local comparisons.

Last year, about 45 per cent of 11-year-olds taking the pilot tests reached level 4 — the normal expectation of the age group — with girls performing better than boys in English and mathematics, but not science. The main change for 1995 has been to reduce the administration time for the tests set for lower ability groups and to simplify some of the language in the questions.

TOMORROW

What to expect in 11-year-olds' first science tests.
Wednesday: English at 11
Thursday: Mathematics

Tough extra for those at the top

Ben Preston on the value of setting a further challenge at 14 and 11

National tests are required by law to assess children across the whole ability range. As a result, there are special extension papers in English, mathematics and science for exceptionally bright children.

But the number of 14-year-olds sitting them this week will be very small. The tests are designed only for those pupils who are taking their GCSE examinations a year early, and cover material that pupils will have studied only if they have been accelerated and taken fast-track courses.

English is a popular extension paper because the subject places less emphasis on the depth of pupils' factual knowledge and more on the skills they have acquired. Friday's hour-long paper (plus 15 minutes' reading time) will invite pupils to analyse and compare two passages, one written before the 20th century.

Last summer, an extract from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* was selected together with a passage from *The Scarecrows* by Robert Westall. To win marks for reading comprehension, candidates needed to demonstrate that they could make comparisons between the texts, explain insights and opinions, respond to writers' use of language and literary devices and comment on structure.

The mathematics paper on Thursday lasts 90 minutes and is the most difficult of the extension papers. Last year the examiners

reported that the handful of pupils who sat the paper found it extremely demanding and that it even exceeded GCSE requirements in places.

The science test will also take place on Thursday, lasting 90 minutes. The paper will be split into three sections, one for each level of difficulty: level 8, the equivalent of a GCSE grade B; level 9, the equivalent of a grade A; and level 10, a starred A. Pupils will be expected to remember some formulae since none will appear on the test paper.

The extension tests for 11-year-olds in mathematics and science are based on the same principle, testing pupils on areas they will have tackled only if they have been pushed up a year. They will both take place on Friday May 19, lasting 30 minutes each.

There is no paper for high-flyers in English at 11. Examiners decided that the questions on main papers were open-ended and would allow exceptionally able pupils to shine.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has agreed to review all national curriculum tests after this summer. Inevitably, the future of extension papers will be high on the agenda, not least because the ten-level scale measuring pupils' progress is being reduced to eight. This step, which has already been agreed, raises serious questions about the need for high-flyers' papers for 14-year-olds in particular.

Check your science

- THE answers to Friday's sample questions from the science paper for 14-year-olds are:
1. Tuning fork and ear
(a) the fork vibrates or moves back and forth
(b) (i) outer ear, (ii) nerve
 2. Hair dryer
(a) any one from
— the total output does not equal input
— output is less than input
— because energy is conserved
(b) sound; 0.27
3. Ship's sonar
(a) 1750 or 0.5 x 3500
(b) any one from
— the sound travels as longitudinal waves
— water molecules vibrate or move parallel to the direction of travel of the wave
— a series of compressions and rarefactions pass through water
(c) 0.4m.

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ACCESS AND EXCELLENCE

How investors viewed the peace dividend on VE-Day

Robert Miller and
Morag Preston
take a look at
the stock
market of
50 years ago

Canny investors who took time out from the VE celebrations 50 years ago to scan the business pages of *The Times* would have found much to hearten them. No talk, on that day at least, of £1 million salary deals, donations to political parties or hostile takeover bids.

Rather the City Notes on that Monday reported: "With VE-Day at hand and the summer savings campaign in the offing, the thoughts of some experienced savings campaigners are turning to their wares. The stall for the 'small saver' still looks gay enough."

Savings Certificates, Defence Bonds and Post Office accounts had all played their part in funding Government expenditure.

But, the report went on: "From many points of view, the end of the war in Europe will be an opportune moment for fresh aims in Government borrowing." The end result is that today Savings Certificates still play an important part in contributing to the £3.6 billion that National Savings raised last year to fund the present Government's borrowing requirements.

Elsewhere on that day, loans were "in fair demand on Saturday," said the Money Market report, while Olaf Hambro, chairman of Hambros Bank, reported in his annual statement that "liquidity is still high."

Also reporting its 25th annual results on that Monday was Royal Exchange Assurance, Lord Bicester, governor of the insurance company, said that premium income of £1.5 million was £20,000 higher than in 1943.

He noted that his company's pledge to "support to the utmost the effort of the Government to finance this war" had been "very faithfully implemented" and that, as a result, interest income had been "adversely affected".

The financial climate against which these companies were reporting was very different from that nowdays, however. For instance, the official Bank of England base rate was 2 per cent, against 6.75 per cent



The City climate against which companies were reporting was very different from that of today

today, and the dollar exchange rate was \$4 to the pound, compared with \$1.60 at the present.

Against this background, equity investors in particular would have been looking to shift the emphasis and weighting of their portfolios. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, said that the first to go on the peace dividend would have been defence stocks.

Had Mr Urquhart Stewart been advising a client in 1945, he says the postwar tips would have been to buy construction, steel and mining on the reconstruction story. Breweries were also a safe bet on the back of the immediate celebrations in hand and the return of troops over the coming

months. If you had backed the brewers, you might have bought shares in Watneys, subsequently bought by Grand Metropolitan, or Distillers, now owned by Guinness.

De La Rue, perhaps more famous nowadays as the official printer of banknotes, had proved its ability to diversify during the Second World War by inventing formica.

Other companies around then that became caught up in the postwar demand for all sorts of electrical goods were EMI and Decca, both of which also had recording labels. The most obvious buy was Boots on the baby boom, although on VE-Day their shares closed down at 54s 3d.

But those who did back many of

the recommended sectors and who stuck with them would have had a bumpy ride. Many companies in the forefront of the postwar reconstruction period were nationalised shortly after 1945. The tiny local electricity companies were swallowed up by the State, as were gas, shipbuilding, including Swan Hunter, which only recently went under, albeit as a private company, railways, water companies and steel.

The *Times* stock market report for VE-Day itself says that trading on Monday was "generally dull". Among the railways, shares in Great Western, back in 1995 with a splendid new livery prior to a possible privatisation, declined by 1d to 55½d in old

money. Among foreign government securities, European Bonds, including German loans, were lower in a number of cases and French railway issues weakened. Thankfully, Chilean Bonds maintained their recent improvement.

The stock market report continues: "While the rank and file and industrial shares were generally steady, the market leaders suffered a fairly general marking down. Several textile shares were easier, notably Fine Spinners, Calico Printers and Tootal Broadhurst. Among tobacco shares, British-American closed above the worst at 64½d while Godfrey Phillips were a few pence higher at 56s 4d."

Tate & Lyle eased to 71s 6d (437p at close on Friday). Cable and Wireless (406p on Friday May 5 1995) was weak at 94½d, a fall of 1d. A few motor shares, including Austin, closed 6d to 9d lower. In the stores list, Harrods, now privately owned by Fayed Brothers, declined to 68s. Its sister company is House of Fraser, which includes Army & Navy stores. But had you invested your money straight after the war, how much better off, if at all, would you be? On the face of it, quite a lot. For example, £1,000 invested in equities in 1945 would now be worth £417,390 if you had reinvested the income and received the money gross without tax being deducted. If you take the average tax prevailing over the succeeding years, Mr Urquhart Stewart reckons that the total would shrink to £178,830.

The taxman, however, must be viewed as a relatively benign figure compared with the scourge of inflation. If you take that into account, the real value of your investment shrinks dramatically. The £178,830 is, in reality, worth only £8,890.

Gift investors fared even worse. The £1,000 invested is nominally worth £16,350 today, but after tax that falls to £4,580 and after inflation to just £250. Nor have building society savers done much better. The £1,000 may have grown to £10,090, but, in reality, it is worth only £510.

So what if you had done nothing and put the £1,000 under the mattress. Well, after inflation its spending power would be £50 today. However, Mr Urquhart Stewart says: "The notes might be worth a bit more for their historical value."

And as for the next 50 years? Mr Urquhart Stewart says: "The last 50 years have been dominated by electronics - the next 50 will be the cyberspace technologists." You have been warned.

A good war for crooks

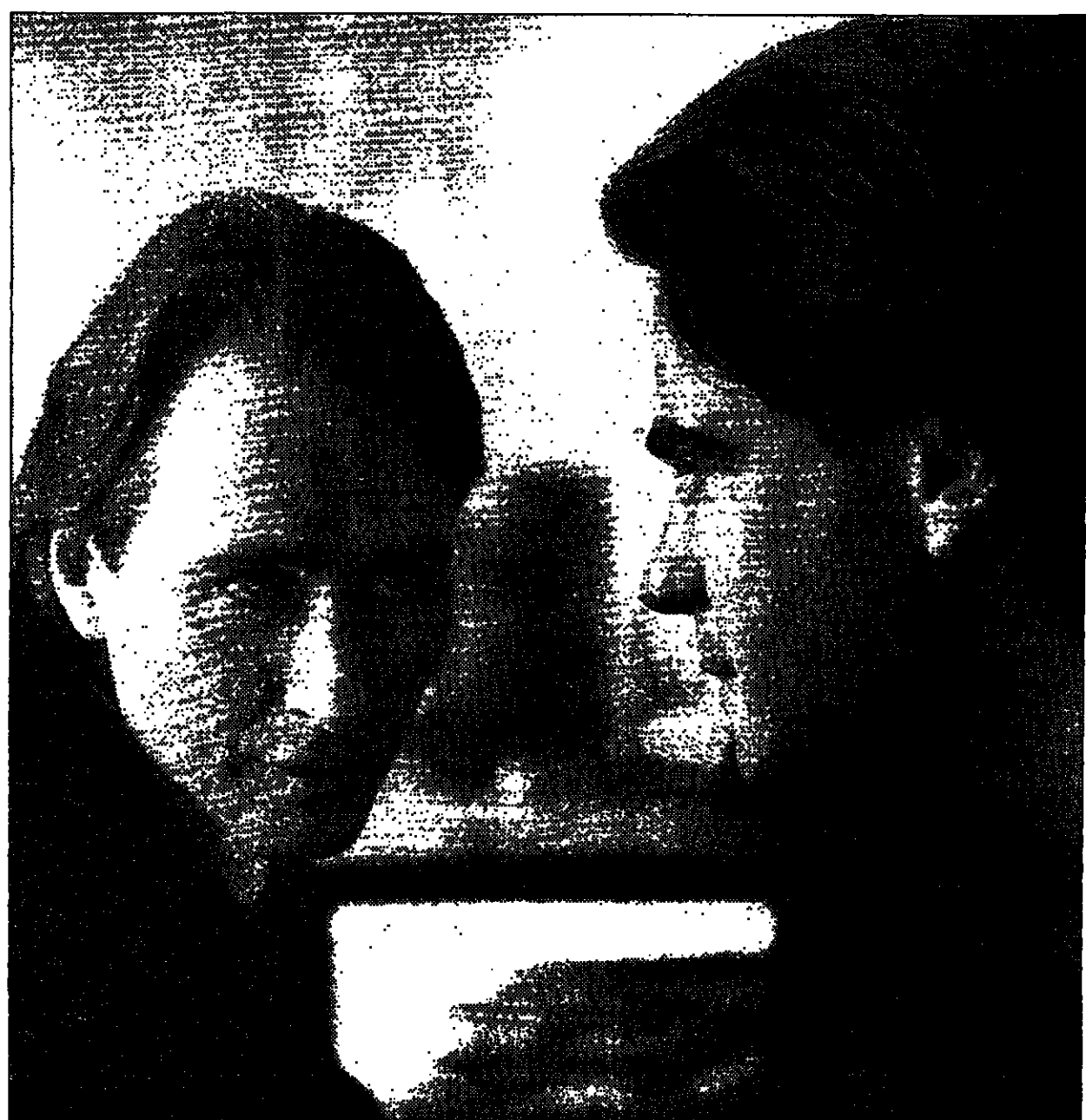
Coupons and Nylons. Radio 4, 10.45pm.

For some, during the Second World War, the wages of sin were far too attractive to resist. Dick Hobbs talks to two experienced black-market dealers, identified only as John and Frank. John was a merchant seaman. Nylon stockings he bought for five shillings a pair in America. They were washed up by prostitutes for £2. Petrol coupons, destined for the incinerator, were snatched, recycled and coupons put back into circulation. Posing as air-raid wardens, wearing helmets and arm bands, Frank and his fellow villains found willing but unsuspecting members of the public to help them to load stolen goods into their vans. His contribution to VE-Day celebrations was to raid a cigarette warehouse and strip it bare.

Fighting for a Laugh. Radio 4, 12.25pm.

Frank Muir's choice of snippets from wartime radio comedy shows would have been mine. Inevitably, there is an encounter between Tommy Handley and Mrs Mopp, recorded at a Seaplane naval base. The roar of welcome they received must have been heard in Berlin. Equally inevitably we hear the Western Brothers languidly ridiculing Lord Hivewhew ("the humbug of Hamburg"), the immortal Robb Wilton, and Askey and Murdoch swapping wisecracks in their flat on top of Broadcasting House. This hilarious half-hour confirms Frank Muir's conclusion that one cheerful effect of war is to nourish comedy.

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo 4.00am Lynn Parsons 6.30 Wave Parade 8.00 Olive Vernon 12.00 Rave Day - 12 hours of continuous dance music. With presenters James Hamilton and Kevin Greening 3.00 Rave Day with Mark Goodier 6.00 Rave Day with Pete Tong 9.00 Rave Day with Danny Rampling Midnight Wendy Lloyd</p>	<p>All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe (MW only) Off the Shelf 5.45 Did You Know? 6.00 News 6.30 Anything Goes (MW only) Europe 7.00 News 7.15 7.30 Dear Diary 8.00 News 8.15 Development '95 8.30 Heritage 9.00 News (MW only) News in German 9.10 Words of Faith (MW only) News in German 9.15 The Gulf of Nations 10.00 News 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf Noon News 12.00 News 12.15 News (MW only) News in German 1.15 Britain 1.30 Music 2.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.20 News in German (MW only) News in German 4.45 Gospel (MW only) News in German 5.00 News 5.15 Ice-Cream Sundae 6.00 News 6.15 Taffy Tunes 6.30 World Today (MW only) News in German 7.00 News 7.30 Omnibus 8.00 News 8.30 Europe 8.30 Outlook 9.55 Words of Faith 10.00 News 10.15 Britain 10.30 Multitrack 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Development Midnight News 12.00am Topical Report 12.15 John Peel 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 1.30 Folk 1.45 Britain 2.00 News and Press 2.15 Beechwood 2.45 Health 3.00 News 3.30 Let's Do the Show Right Here 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 John Peel</p>
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
<p>FM Stereo 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up Wogge 8.15 Pause for Thought 8.30 Ken Bruce with a selection of wartime favourites 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Sarah Kennedy with a VE-Day special 3.00 Announcement of Peace, from the BBC Archives 3.00 Ed Stewart hosts a VE-Day street party 4.30 John Dunn visits Prague 6.00 Don't You Know There's a War On? 7.00 Swinging to Victory 8.00 Commemoration from Coventry: Introduced by Richard Baker 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester</p>	<p>5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine 11.35 Dry News Special Update 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.05 Ruscos on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, and at 7.20 Sport 7.25 Wendy Winners 1988 - Wimbledon v Liverpool 8.00 The Monday Match: Blackburn v Newcastle 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, and 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night</p>
RADIO 3 LIVE	VIRGIN RADIO
<p>6.00am Samantha Marsh, Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anne Reabum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Dae, Carol McGiffin 10.00 Caesar 1.00am Al Kelly</p>	<p>6.00am Russ'n'Juno 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nick Abbot 7.30 Paul Coyte 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks</p>
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
<p>6.00am Open University: Gornhorst on Art and Illusion 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air With Andrew McGregor, Fauré (Sicilienne, Op 78); Walton, an Hindmarsh (A Wartime Sketchbook); Britten (Canticle II: Still falls the rain); 8.05 Handel Handbooks: Handel (Trio Sonata in B flat, Op 2 No 3); 8.24 Mozart (Tenerife) Come ecology (last title); Walter Leigh (Concertino for harpsichord and strings) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Gabriel Fauré (Berceuse; Dans les ruines d'une abbaye; Lydia; Nocturne No 1 in E flat minor; Les djinns; Piano Quartet No 1 in C minor) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Poulenc (Sonata for two pianos); James MacMillan (Three Dawn Rituals); José Pablo Moncayo Garcia (Huapango); 11.25 Artist of the Week: Jaime Laredo, violin/director, Mandelstam (Octet in E flat for strings) 12.00 The Highest Form of Art: Jim Hayley continues his celebration of British and American musicals (4/5) (1) 1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert: live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Chantal Juillet, violin; Raphael Wallfisch, cello; Pascal Rogier, piano; Fauré (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 117; Piano Trio in D minor, Op 123) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Olska, Tippett (Triple Concerto); Mahler (Symphony No 1 in D) 3.40 Fauré Tale: An Outtake</p>	<p>View: Swedish trumpeter Holger Hertenberger on British music 3.45 Music for Organ, played by Christopher Henric in Lindesburgh Church, Copenhagen. Bach (Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, Great); Schumann (Six Fugues on the name Bach, Op 60) 4.30 Sinatra's Jazz: Mel Hill traces the part played by jazz and jazz musicians in the evolution of Frank Sinatra's distinctive vocal style 5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Corbett joins the Linney Quartet in Sheffield (1) 5.15 In Tune: Gershwin (Three Preludes); 6.03 Chopin (Prelude in E flat, Op 26 No 2); Bloch (On America, Epic Fantasy; America) 7.30 BBC Philharmonic in New York under Yan Pascal Tortelier and Peter Maxwell Davies, Holger Hertenberger, trumpet; Ravel (Rhapsodie espagnole); Maxwell Davies (Trumpet Concerto); Debussy (Symphony No 3); Debussy (La mer) 9.20 Fauré Tale: Dear Bill, Dearwell Ltd. Correspondence between composers William Alwyn and Elizabeth Lutyens 9.40 Songs of Love: Brahms (Liebeslieder, Op 52; Three Quartets, Op 64; Neue Liebeslieder, Op 65) 10.45 Minding It With Robert Sarsfield and Mark Russell 11.30-12.30am Ensemble: Arnsky (Suite No 1 in F for two pianos); Rachmaninov (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 10); Borodine (Preludes; No 7 in F sharp; No 6 in D flat)</p>



"So, how was your Scottish trip..?"

'Nescafé Gold Blend,' part V tonight.

Trying times over Lloyd's

ABOUT half the judges in the Commercial Court are unable to hear the Lloyd's litigation because they have been involved in some aspects of it while at the Bar, according to the insider quoted in *The Lawyer*, the legal newspaper. Mr Justice Potter says that he expects at least three judges at any one time to be trying the cases, but this may be difficult to achieve in the current circumstances and so the Commercial Court may even have to borrow a judge from the Court of Appeal next year. Difficulties are also arising because the judges have friends and family involved in Lloyd's actions, lawyers say. "Some might feel conflicted out due to friends they know at Lloyd's," says Peter Driscoll at Elborne Mitchell, the solicitors. A number of decisions will be appealed and there will then be a shortage of judges in the Court of Appeal. Kevin Ryan, a partner at Denton Hall, says it is hard to find judges "free, with no peripheral involvement". He says that in one of his recent cases, the judge had to declare his interest and was taken off the case.

Lazards' gain

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND is not the only one shortly to be leaving the Elysée palace. Anne Lauvergeon, who has been his right-hand woman on the international front, or his "sherpa", since Jacques Attali left in 1991, has been



headhunted for the Paris office of Lazards. Her appointment proves that being a chief aide and political confidante of a socialist president does not prevent a brilliant young woman from accepting executive power with a deeply capitalist merchant bank, and a specialist in denationalisation. However, she is having to spend six months learning the Lazards ropes under Steve Ratmer, the New York chief executive.

Balancing act

HOT-FOOT from his controversial press conference on Friday, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, went off to Goldsmiths Hall to take part in a quaint City ritual called The Trial of the Pyx that takes place once a year. He was required to dress up in the full ceremonial robes of Master of the Mint and weigh currency on a set of antique scales. The idea is to ensure the integrity of the nation's currency, to check that the pound in your pocket is worth what it should be. The scales may have balanced on Friday but, after the Chancellor's shock decision not to raise interest rates, the City is going to make sure that the pound is worth a lot less than it was.

Well covered

AN INSURANCE wit, taking liberties with South Africa's leading insurance groups, has come up with the following: If you sleep with your wife - that's Legal & General. If you sleep with someone else's - that's Mutual & Federal. If you sleep with your girlfriend - that's Mutual Trust, and if you sleep with your mother-in-law - that's Old Mutual.

COLIN CAMPBELL

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.28	2.11
Austria Sch	15.82	15.12
Belgium Fr	48.78	44.46
Canada \$	2.20	2.14
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mk	7.40	6.75
France Fr	6.36	7.70
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	379.00	342.00
Hong Kong \$	13.11	12.11
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.298	4.588
Italy Lit	2755.00	2800.00
Japan Yen	150.00	134.00
Malta	0.620	0.545
Netherlands Gld	2.639	2.409
Norway Kr	10.59	9.78
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.43
Spain Ptas	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	12.38	11.48
Switzerland Fr	1.36	1.78
Turkey Lira	ref.	6519.00
USA \$	1.710	1.580

Rates for travel commission bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

محكمة من الأصل

Quiet tragedy before we hit rock bottom

The most significant programme over the weekend was Jon Blair's quiet and lengthy *Anne Frank Remembered* (BBC2), a work of such great care that when, as Kenneth Branagh's narration mentioned, the Frank family's confiscated furniture being transported to Germany by a removal firm called A. Puls, we were shown not only a photo of an A. Puls removal van, but also footage of a Dutchman on a bike with an A. Puls van glimpsed briefly in the background. It was an extraordinary film, genuinely educative, leaving the tragedy intact while gently exposing the myth.

Prime Suspect Inner Circles (ITV) managed to get through two hours of sinister plot and political hoo-blooming without mentioning Freemasonry once. Odd, that. Tension (Helen Mirren) has come up against the thick blue line before, of course, but usually it has

shielded a terrible evil, such as child murder. Last night, however, the unravelling of a tawdry local politics murder intrigue led her into a kind of Whitehall farce, in which no-type suspects were held in upstairs interview rooms while she opened and slammed doors. As she narrowed her eyes and fixed her jaw, you could see her mind at work: "Whoever is guilty here, it still won't be interesting, I'd better just keep slugging them doors." Speeded up slightly, and without the classy background music when Mirren rested her head against the wall, it would have looked absolutely daft. But on the other hand, wasn't it fun to see Tory councillors portrayed, now that they no longer exist?

How can I ever forgive myself? I missed the man with the talking splinter on Saturday night. He appeared on Takeaway TV, Channel 4's

latest showcase for home videos and trashy sensationalism, and — well, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, I mean, a man with a talking splinter raises so many useful critical questions. For example, do the words of the common man carry more weight when expressed via a fundam? Is this what they call a bottom-up policy?

On this weekend of VE-Day nostalgia and tasteful reminiscence, one thing was for sure: Bums-in-your-face television had finally arrived.

Saturday nights have long been a problem for the discerning viewer. Repeats of *Inspector Morse* and *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* are pleasant enough, but given the option of a night out with a talkative anus — or even a laconic belly-button — you'd snap it up like lightning. BBC1 is strongest in the early part of the evening, and then trails off disastrously — a superb warm-up act leaves you

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

high, dry, and crushingly disappointed. By 9.15, when the dreary *Chicago Hope* hits the screen, it's too late to go out, even though your very own bottom may be crying aloud for you to do so.

Fridays, meanwhile, have got sillier in the other direction. Unless you possess two video recorders, that siren burn will never lure you out, because there are now hours and hours of comedy, with Chan-

nel 4's *Father Ted*, *Friends* and *Roseanne* pitted directly against BBC2's *Rab C. Nesbitt*, *The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer* and *Have I Got News For You*. I ask you, is this fair?

True, Reeves and Mortimer are hardly a sure-fire audience-winner, since they irritate and offend as many people as they entertain. But I laughed all through Friday's first show, and even found myself thinking that the preposterous "New Moroccan and Wise" tag was well earned. Their *Stars in Their Eyes* segment was hilarious — Bob Mortimer dressed as Matthew Kelly with light bulbs on his waistcoat; ugly wannabes traipsing in.

Tonight, Matthew, I am going to be George Michael. "Well," twinkled Matthew, "You look now like 'im, Bill." At which point, Bill appeared in leather jacket and flat George Michael photo-mask — an image mixing trash with The

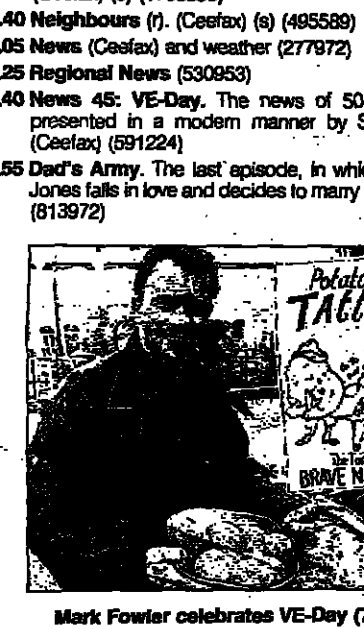
Oresteia that will remain with me for a very long time.

And then, as if to round off the experience, *Stars in Their Eyes* returned to ITV on Saturday. What bliss. The real Matthew Kelly? To the cursory viewer, *Stars in Their Eyes* seems a pointless, cheap programme, in which class acts such as Nar King Cole are flawlessly imitated by bus conductors. "So what?" is the obvious question. Yet *Stars in Their Eyes* is endlessly compelling, because its fakery knows no bounds. Costumes, lighting, musical arrangements — nothing is left to the viewer's imagination, or to chance, either. No one has ever said, "Tonight, Matthew, I am going to be Judy Garland, but I can only do it in the bath." Every performance must be the cloning of a lifetime. I even thought I saw a contestant miming.

In any case, the big buzz of *Stars*

in *Their Eyes* comes from audience participation at home, guessing wrongly the identity of each star held in each eye. That white middle-aged man with the round face, for instance. *Who is he going to be tonight, Matthew?* Nobody listens to his warm-up chat because we are all frantic to work out who he looks like. Matt Monro? Is he Matt Monro, Matthew? No, damnit, he's Benny Hill. What's worse is when the person does bear a striking resemblance to somebody, but chooses somebody else. A black woman office worker with Diana Ross written all over her — turned out to be Ronnie Spector (*Be My Baby*). Topping it all was a blind, black man who smiled a lot. Blind? Black? Damn, I figured it could go either way. "Stevie Wonder!" I yelled, decisively. "Tonight, Matthew, I am going to be Ray Charles," he said. It can drive you nuts, this kind of thing.

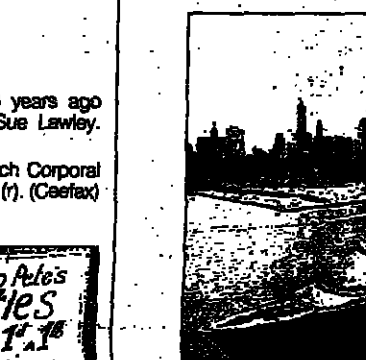
- BBC1**
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10025601)
 - 9.05-11.05 Children's BBC beginning with *Bucky O'Hare* (1) (020972) 9.30 *Active8* (1) (CeeFax) (0675381) 9.50 *Popeye and Son* (1) (4875773)
 - 10.05 *Playdays* (1) (1468001) 10.30 *Just So Stories* (1) (0741663) 10.40 *Babar* (1) (583750)
 - 11.05 *HRH The Princess Margaret* - Memories of VE-Day. Richard Attenborough talks to Princess Margaret about her memories of the war years. (1735688)
 - 11.30 *Buckingham Palace*. The momentous scenes of 50 years ago are recreated as Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Harry Secombe and Cliff Richard lead the crowd in a nostalgic singing as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Family again watch and wave from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. (CeeFax) (06407882)
 - 1.10 *Oppress News* (CeeFax) and weather (0552408)
 - 1.30 *Regional News* and weather (0552408)
 - 1.40 *Neighbours*. (CeeFax) (012581428)
 - 2.00 *FILM: The Battle of Britain* (1969) starring Laurence Olivier. Second World War drama about the few who won the aerial battle for Britain. Directed by Guy Hamilton. (CeeFax) (78033205)
 - 4.10 *Remember This*. You Must Remember This. (CeeFax) (0586862)
 - 5.10 *Memories and Celebrations*. John Tusa and Jill Dando look at the preparations for tonight's celebrations in Hyde Park and other parts of the country as well as overseas, and hear reports from street party celebrations. Plus a nostalgic archive look at the VE-Day festivities of 50 years ago. (CeeFax) (01703359)
 - 5.40 *Neighbours* (1). (CeeFax) (0495589)
 - 6.05 *News* (CeeFax) and weather (277972)
 - 6.25 *Regional News* (0530955)
 - 6.40 *News 45: VE-Day*. The news of 50 years ago presented in a modern manner by Sue Lawley. (CeeFax) (091224)
 - 6.55 *Dad's Army*. The last episode, in which Corporal Jones falls in love and decides to marry (1). (CeeFax) (013972)



Mark Fowler celebrates VE-Day (7.30pm)

- 7.30 *EastEnders*. With Todd Carly. (CeeFax) (01595)
- 8.00 *The Nation Celebrates*. (CeeFax) (0229834)
- 9.05 *Call Up the Stars*. A VE-Day concert in which today's stars portray those who were popular 50 years ago. With Max Bygraves, Marti Caine, Dave Carr, Jim Davidson, John Inman, Sir Patrick, Ronnie Corbett, Harry Enfield and Maureen Lipman. (CeeFax) (0232446)
- 10.20 *News* (CeeFax), regional news and weather (038750)
- 10.50 *The Day's Events*. Highlights introduced by John Tusa (0143717)
- 11.30 *FILM: Tom Jones* (1963) starring Albert Finney. An Oscar-winning adaptation of Fielcing's bawdy novel about the amorous adventures of a young rake in 18th-century England. Directed by Tony Richardson. (CeeFax) (41382)
- 1.30 *Weather* (0514286)

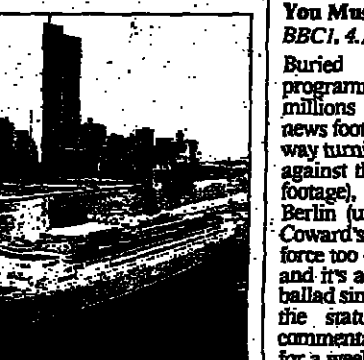
- BBC2**
- 8.20 *Open University*
 - 8.00 *Felix the Cat* (1) (7388868) 8.15 *The Adventures of Skippy* (1) (0727250) 8.40 *Swat Kats* (2389553)
 - 9.05 *The Music of Tereza* (1) (0636576)
 - 10.15 *FILM: Ensign Pulver* (1984) starring Robert Walker, Burl Ives and Walter Matthau. A disappointing sequel to the naval comedy *Mr Roberts*. Directed by Joshua Logan. (0581953)
 - 11.55 *FILM: Captain Nemo and the Underwater City* (1969) starring Robert Ryan. Children's adventure yarn, based on the Jules Verne story. Directed by James Hill. (00413243)
 - 1.40 *Brundage*. A children's opera by Hans Krasa based on a Czech morality tale (07460017)
 - 2.10 *The World on its Dark Side*. A concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. (0325381)
 - 3.50 *Miniature Worlds*. A gathering of garden gnomes (1). (CeeFax) (05531817)
 - 4.00 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (1) (224)
 - 4.30 *Easther*. Studio discussion series (1) (7191040)
 - 5.10 *Day to Remember*. A service from Bevis Marks synagogue in London (1) (0588885)
 - 6.00 *FILM: The Witches* (1986) starring Anjelica Huston, Rowan Atkinson and Mel Zetterling. A coven comedy adventure directed by Nicolas Roeg. (CeeFax) (037998)
 - 7.30 *Picture This*. A story, set to music, of three retired academics living in Paris who visit the city's National History Museum every day. (CeeFax) (01137)



On board Cuper's cruise liner flagship (8.00pm)

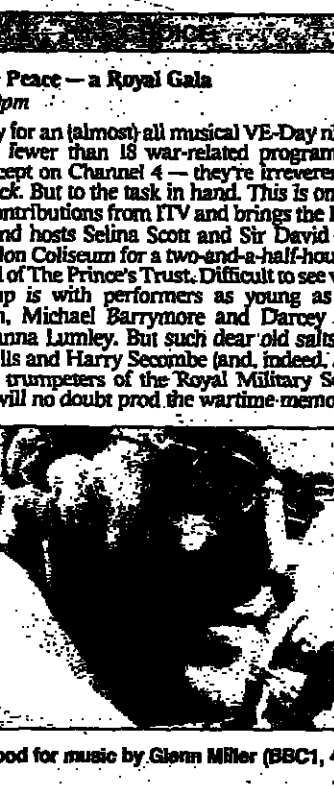
- 8.00 *Carry on Q&A*. David Lomax reports on what went wrong with the Q&A's (1) (012008)
- 8.45 *Close-Up: The Woman in Red, The Searchers and The Apartment* (1) (077359)
- 9.00 *Outer Limits: Sandkings*. (CeeFax) (015882)
- 10.30 *FILM: Boyz n the Hood* (1991) starring Cuba Gooding Jr, Laurence Fishburne and Ice Cube. A drama, based loosely on fact, about three childhood friends growing up in inner-city Los Angeles. Directed by John Singleton. (CeeFax) (01479917)
- 12.20am *FILM: Ashes and Diamonds* (1958, b/w) starring Zbigniew Cybulski. The final part of Andrzej Wajda's powerful war trilogy. In postwar Poland, a confused patriot wrestles with why the killing has to go on (203489) 2.00-2.10 *Weather* (780380)
- 5.00-5.15 *BBC Select: Stratfordville TV - Putting You in the Picture* (0170800)
- 5.30-6.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (03084)

- BBC4**
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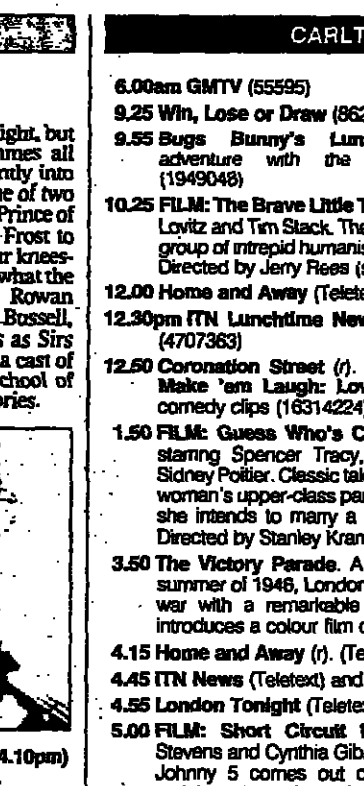
The Sandkings emerge from eggs stolen from a top-secret lab by one of its more rebellious technicians. He suspects that the sandy soil skimmed off the surface of Mars contains a life form. Even when the project has been cancelled, the eggs in the family barn — with a little help from his young son Josh. The critters hatch as bright-eyed, but definitely not bushy-tailed. More your scorpion, really — and clearly intelligent, even artistic. But they're militant-minded and on the march. Beau Bridges is the scientist, his own son Dylan is Josh and his father, Lloyd, is the grandfather who may just be able to save them all from a terrible fate. Huge fun and absolutely nothing to do with VE-Day. Elizabeth Copley

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In the mood for music by Glenn Miller (BBC1, 4.10pm)

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Dame Vera Lynn sings for victory (10.25pm)

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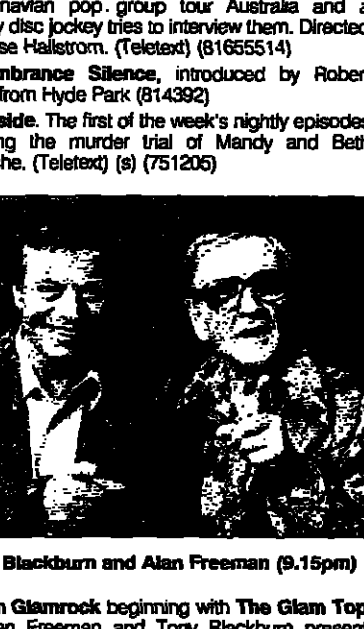
- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (05595)
 - 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (0626156)
 - 9.55 *Bugs Bunny's New Tune*. Space-age adventure with the carrot-crunching rabbit (1949048)
 - 10.25 *FILM: The Brave Little Toaster* (1987) starring Jon Lovitz and Tim Stack. The animated adventures of a group of intrepid household appliances. Directed by Jerry Rees (1) (04482196)
 - 12.00 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (36798)
 - 12.30pm *ITN Lunchtime News* (Teletext) and weather (4707363)
 - 12.50 *Coronation Street* (1). (Teletext) (7613068) 1.20 *Make 'em Laugh: Love Hurts*. Compilation of comedy clips (1631424)
 - 1.50 *FILM: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) starring Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn and Sidney Poitier. Classic tale of the reaction of a young woman's upper-class parents when she announces she intends to marry a black research physician. Directed by Stanley Kramer (08189750)
 - 3.50 *The Victory Parade*. A year after VE-Day in the summer of 1946, London celebrated the end of the war with a remarkable parade. Alastair Stewart introduces a colour film of this event (1204798)
 - 4.15 *Home and Away* (1) (Teletext) (41717)
 - 4.45 *ITN News* (Teletext) and weather (7338243)
 - 4.55 *London Tonight* (Teletext) and weather (1792243)
 - 5.00 *FILM: Short Circuit II* (1988) starring Fisher Stevens and Cynthia Gibb. Hyperactive mecha Johny 5 comes out of hiding to discover the delights of the city and help his friends to tackle a ruthless gang of robbers. Directed by Kenneth Johnson (17833)
 - 7.00 *Coronation Street*. (Teletext) (2514)
 - 7.30 *Live for Peace - A Royal Gala* (1) (037330)
 - 10.00 *ITN News* (Teletext) and weather (017392)
 - 10.20 *London Tonight* (Teletext) and weather (056330)



Tony Blackburn and Alan Freeman (8.15pm)

- 8.00 *Carry on Q&A*. David Lomax reports on what went wrong with the Q&A's (1) (012008)
- 8.45 *Close-Up: The Woman in Red, The Searchers and The Apartment* (1) (077359)
- 9.00 *Outer Limits: Sandkings*. (CeeFax) (015882)
- 10.30 *FILM: Boyz n the Hood* (1991) starring Cuba Gooding Jr, Laurence Fishburne and Ice Cube. A drama, based loosely on fact, about three childhood friends growing up in inner-city Los Angeles. Directed by John Singleton. (CeeFax) (01479917)
- 12.20am *FILM: Ashes and Diamonds* (1958, b/w) starring Zbigniew Cybulski. The final part of Andrzej Wajda's powerful war trilogy. In postwar Poland, a confused patriot wrestles with why the killing has to go on (203489) 2.00-2.10 *Weather* (780380)
- 5.00-5.15 *BBC Select: Stratfordville TV - Putting You in the Picture* (0170800)
- 5.30-6.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (03084)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 *Spiff and Hercules* (7633175)
 - 7.00 *The Glamrock Big Breakfast* (12243)
 - 9.00 *Little Wizards*. Cartoon series (14576)
 - 9.30 *FILM: The Blue Peter* (1955) starring Keron Moore and Greta Gray. A comedy drama about a brain-washed Korean War veteran who rediscovers himself when hired as an instructor at an outdoor activity centre in Wales. Directed by Wolf Rilla (04484576)
 - 11.10 *Dolphin Dilemma*. A documentary examining the problem of keeping dolphins captive for research or entertainment (1) (0106717)
 - 12.10 *Champion Champ and The Mysterious Cowboy*. Cartoon double bill (4871175)
 - 12.30 *Sesame Street*. The guest is Blair Underwood (1) (19779)
 - 1.30 *Abba in Concert*. The Glamrock season continues with the hugely successful group performing 25 songs at Wembley Arena in 1979 (19408)
 - 2.30 *Channel 4 Racing From Kempton Park*. Live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.15 races (1) (1595)
 - 4.30 *Fifteen to One*. (Teletext) (01576)
 - 4.50 *News summary* and weather (7412750)
 - 5.05 *The Golden Girls* (1). (Teletext) (0179798)
 - 5.35 *Nurses*. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital (1). (Teletext) (0170204)
 - 6.05 *The Cosby Show* (1). (Teletext) (181601)
 - 6.35 *Rock's Modern Life and Dennis* (21576)
 - 6.55 *FILM: Abba - The Movie* (1977). The Scandinavian pop group tour Australia and a Sydney disc jockey tries to interview them. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom. (Teletext) (0165514)
 - 8.38 *Remembrance Silence*, introduced by Robert Hardy from Hyde Park (014392)
 - 8.45 *Brookside*. The first of the week's nightly episodes following the murder trial of Mandy and Beth Jordache. (Teletext) (0171205)



The Glamrock season continues with the hugely successful group performing 25 songs at Wembley Arena in 1979 (19408)

- 8.00 *Carry on Q&A*. David Lomax reports on what went wrong with the Q&A's (1) (012008)
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- 5.00-5.15 *BBC Select: Stratfordville TV - Putting You in the Picture* (0170800)
- 5.30-6.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (03084)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 1.20pm *Surrounders* (1951222) 1.50 *Porridge* (09534779) 2.00-4.15 *The Dam Busters* (19153532) 4.30-5.00 *Anglia Weather* (0530955) 5.10-5.15 *Anglia News* (0530955) 5.15-5.20 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.20-5.25 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.25-5.30 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.30-5.35 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.35-5.40 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.40-5.45 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.45-5.50 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.50-5.55 *Anglia Today* (0530955) 5.55-6.00 *Anglia Today* (0530955)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except: 1.20pm *A Country Practice* (1014224) 1.50 *Warner Brothers* (09534779) 2.00-4.15 *The Dam Busters* (19153532) 4.30-5.00 *Central News* (0530955) 5.10-5.15 *Central News* (0530955) 5.15-5.20 *Central News* (0530955) 5.20-5.25 *Central News* (0530955) 5.25-5.30 *Central News* (0530955) 5.30-5.35 *Central News* (0530955) 5.35-5.40 *Central News* (0530955) 5.40-5.45 *Central News* (0530955) 5.45-5.50 *Central News* (0530955) 5.50-5.55 *Central News* (0530955) 5.55-6.00 *Central News* (0530955)
- GRANDAD**
- As London except: 1.20pm *The Secret of NIMH* (1014224) 1.50 *Foghorn Leghorn* (09534779) 2.00-4.15 *The Dam Busters* (19153532) 4.30-5.00 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.10-5.15 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.15-5.20 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.20-5.25 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.25-5.30 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.30-5.35 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.35-5.40 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.40-5.45 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.45-5.50 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.50-5.55 *Grandad News* (0530955) 5.55-6.00 *Grandad News* (0530955)
- HTV WEST**
- As London except: 1.20pm *Cartoon Time* (09534779) 1.50 *Laugh with the Cans* (09534779) 2.00-4.15 *The Dam Busters* (19153532) 4.30-5.00 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.10-5.15 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.15-5.20 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.20-5.25 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.25-5.30 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.30-5.35 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.35-5.40 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.40-5.45 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.45-5.50 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.50-5.55 *HTV West News* (0530955) 5.55-6.00 *HTV West News* (0530955)
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Brewers expect to escape damaging beer price inquiry

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE brewing industry is expecting to avoid another long and damaging inquiry into anti-competitive practices when the Office of Fair Trading reports on the latest public probe into beer prices.

This week sees the expiry of the three-month period set for the OFT, under Sir Bryan Carsberg, to look at the difference between the wholesale prices charged by the big brewers to their own pubs and to independent chains, and a ruling on

whether to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected shortly.

The announcement of the inquiry came out of the blue and sent brewers' share prices plunging. But the City is convinced the industry, which has suffered several long drawn-out inquiries into competition in recent years, will escape largely unscathed.

The matter was referred to the OFT by the European Commission, amid concern by tenants of pubs tied to the big brewers that they were being given worse

deals than the burgeoning independent sector.

But Sir Bryan, who received the OFT report at the weekend, has the option of requiring undertakings from the brewers to amend their ways if he decides the current relationship between the industry and its tied tenants operates against the public interest, rather than throwing the whole matter to the MMC.

In particular, he is seen as likely to require the more open publication of the details of contracts between the industry and its tenants and, possibly, some kind

of arbitration procedure to rule on those agreements.

This would limit the damage to the brewers. Commented one analyst at the weekend: "Every brewer's agreement is different. What it will lead to is transparency in the markets, and we will know who is getting what from whom."

The inquiry arose because of the mismatch between the deals on offer to the tied house, essentially a captive market, and those that the brewers, plagued by overproduction, have had to grant the independents to shift their

product in a much more competitive market.

The ending of the OFT inquiry without too much damage to the big brewers and without the uncertainty of an MMC reference would be welcomed by them, even if Sir Bryan eventually requires some minor adjustments to their leases. It would also remove another obstacle from the path of the industry's most eagerly expected deal, the £500 million-plus purchase of Courage by Scottish & Newcastle, which has been awaited since before the start of the year. Both Sir

Bryan and Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, have indicated in the past that what the beer industry most needs is a period of stability.

But City brokers believe there is still little upside to share prices in the sector, while if Sir Bryan does decide to get tough, the short-term damage could be substantial. "Shares have almost completely recovered from their initial setback, leaving little scope if any disappointments do occur," one broker has warned investors.

US on brink of trade war with Japan

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND JANET BUSH

AMERICA was on the brink of a trade war with Japan today after senior economic advisers urged President Clinton to impose punishing sanctions against Japanese imports.

In retaliation for Tokyo's refusal to open its car market to the United States, Mr Clinton was encouraged to implement record-breaking tariffs of up to 100 per cent on billions of dollars of Japanese motor parts.

The recommendation came at a meeting of the National Economic Council in Washington after last-minute negotiations broke down on Friday between Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative, and Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Minister for International Trade.

Mr Kantor met Mr Clinton last night and officials were pressing the President to approve their recommendations before he leaves today for a two-day visit to Moscow.

The dollar dropped only modestly against the yen after Friday's news that trade talks had broken down. The threat of a trade war with Japan has been, however, one of the main factors behind the dollar's slide to successive post-

war lows against the Japanese currency and the US currency could be vulnerable to further announcements from the Clinton Administration.

Other exchange rates in the spotlight include sterling, which fell to a record low against a basket of currencies on Friday after Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, shocked markets by leaving interest rates unchanged. Dealers had been expecting a half-point rise.

Traders will also have their first chance to give their judgment on the outcome of the French presidential election. Most financial centres are open except for London and Paris.

Japanese officials said that if trade sanctions were imposed, they would appeal to the newly formed World Trade Organisation to arbitrate. America said it was happy to go to the WTO too.

While trade disputes are often settled at the last minute, Mr Kantor said there would be no back-peddalling by the President. "He is very determined in this matter. This has gone on far too long and the President will act decisively," said Mr Kantor, who described the Japanese negoti-

ating position as "rigid, ideological and bent on failure".

Carl Levin, Democratic Senator for Michigan, said Mr Clinton had assured him that "he is prepared to do what no other administration has done for 25 years: tell Japan that it faces restrictions on its goods if it doesn't open its market to our autos and auto parts".

US officials yesterday would not specify the targets or total value of Japanese products subject to sanctions, but it was reported the range could be between \$5-\$10 billion.

The formal announcement may be delayed for several days while a draft list, expected to include a sharp boost on tariffs relating to Japanese luxury cars, is drawn up. Also being considered are broader sanctions against Japanese industry, which may prohibit the opening of new car dealerships in America or restrictions on Japanese investment.

As a matter of political and practical expediency, the sanctions are unlikely to be implemented before next month when Mr Clinton meets Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's Prime Minister, at the annual summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Chrysler Corporation yesterday issued a statement from Robert Eaton, its chairman, praising efforts to open up the Japanese car market.



Mickey Kantor, US Trade Representative, said Japan's position was "bent on failure"

Inflation and fewer jobless fail to push up pay awards

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements are holding steady, in spite of rising inflation and falling unemployment, according to a new survey of wage deals — and the policy of companies who are increasingly linking pay to profits may be a key factor in keeping settlements low.

Evidence on pay is for now contradictory, with government and employers' figures suggesting that earnings increases and settlements are, if anything, falling back, while other independent data are showing that wage deals are being pushed up by rising inflation.

Next week, the Government will publish its own figures on average earnings which City economists will examine closely for any signs of inflationary pressures.

But in advance of that, latest evidence from Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay analysis company, suggests that pay pressures remain "remarkably" subdued. Arguing that steadily rising inflation and a tightening labour market have so far this year failed to translate into rising settlements, IRS says that annual wage deals are holding steady at 3 per cent for the fifth successive month.

Early provisional figures for April — a key month in the pay bargaining calendar — show basic pay rises persisting at around the same level.

Labour market tightening remains limited, the survey

says, while the much-talked about "feel-good" factor is proving elusive.

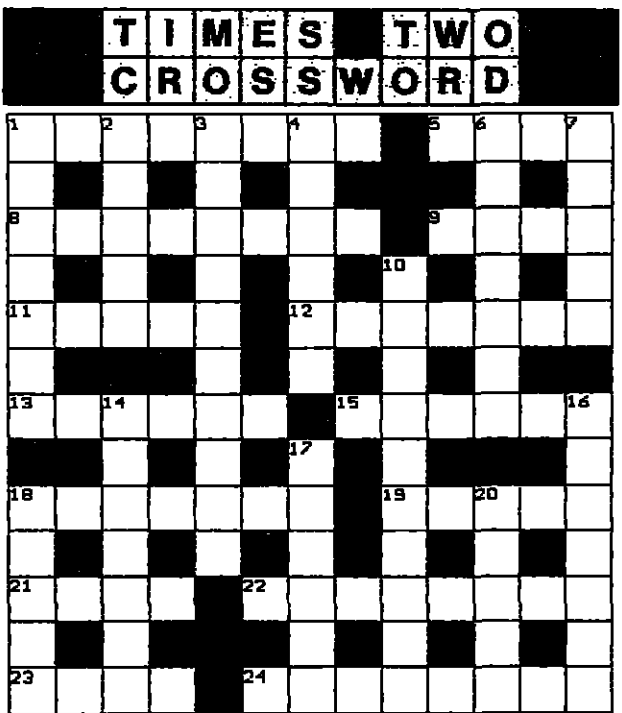
Adam Geldman, the IRS study's author, says that while it is too early to proclaim that the key link between wages and inflation has been broken, "at present the vast majority of employers appear to be in no mood to concede RPI-plus pay increases. This constitutes something of a reversal as, traditionally, pay awards have tended to keep ahead of inflation."

But the IRS study also suggests that the growing popularity of remuneration strategies which forge a direct link between pay and profits may also be acting to depress settlement levels.

The pay research group acknowledges that any additional payments, or awards, which are in whole or part linked to an assessment of individual performance, are excluded from its pay databank analysis.

Some pay awards are, as it freezes because they provide for no pay rise on basic rates, but may substantially increase take-home pay because of payments from their link to profits.

IRS research shows that where schemes under the Government's profit-related pay programme are introduced, they tend to replace basic pay rises, which "increases the already considerable potential PRP has for depressing the headline measure of pay awards."



No 464

ACROSS

- 1 Wisdom (8)
- 2 Deform; lengthways yarn (4)
- 3 Sacred, dramatic musical piece (8)
- 4 Grasp (4)
- 5 Nip; steal (5)
- 6 Axe; helicopter (7)
- 7 Spreading from central point; a tyre (6)
- 8 Revealed religious knowledge (6)
- 9 Localised language variant (7)
- 10 Unpleasant (5)
- 11 Undergarment; conifer (4)
- 12 Settle (in subject territory) (8)
- 13 Devon river; move rapidly (4)
- 14 Unsettled (8)

DOWN

- 1 Bung (7)
- 2 Hard particle; tiny unit of weight (5)
- 3 A bit deaf (5-5)
- 4 Jerky spasm (6)
- 5 Relevant, fitting (7)
- 6 Wind-player, esp in Hamelin once (5)
- 7 A derelict (4-3-3)
- 8 Formal letter opening (4,3)
- 9 Timidity (7)
- 10 Caress; blow (6)
- 11 Michelangelo statue; French neoclassical painter (5)
- 12 Emit light (5)

SOLUTION TO MAY BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 A house is a machine for living in 15 Cataracts 16 Guest-room 17 Necktie 18 Stagger 19 Unsettled 20 Letting go 21 Out and out 22 Amateurs 23 Disown 24 Elgar 25 Airlift 26 Pedestrianise 27 To give and not to count the cost 28 Atmosphere 29 Road test 30 Spenser 31 Treason 32 Anathema 33 Propaganda 34 Sweet are the uses of adversity 35 Non-conducting 36 Elmer 37 Ullar 38 Solid 39 Promethean 40 Rehearse 41 Recursion 42 Reed-stops 43 Levying 44 Ambrose 45 Criticism 46 Immersion 47 Hiding one's light under a bushel
DOWN: 1 Accustomed 2 Outcast 3 Shrug 4 Incorporate 5 Assault 6 Aggregations 7 Heels 8 Natty Bumpo 9 Flodden 10 Ramifies 11 Innate 12 Incriminate 13 Gula 14 Not born yesterday 15 Narcissus 16 Autotroph 17 Omnivorous 18 Writings 19 Groom 20 Drover 21 Nor-east 22 Natured 23 Wastes one's breath 24 Hundreds 25 Damascene 26 Angostura 27 James I 28 Eternal 29 Natal 30 Afternoon Men 31 Trodden down 32 Siphoning 33 Epithet 34 Unoriginal 35 Chronicle 36 Christine 37 Martial 38 Swinish 39 Finery 40 Cubed 41 Swift 42 Virtu (virtu)

Pension victims may face delays

By CAROLINE MERRELL AND ROBERT MILLER

A HIGH Court ruling expected this week could stall the compensation claims of hundreds of thousands of people who may have been mis-sold personal pensions. The court is to rule on whether it is illegal, unreasonable and unfair to expect independent financial advisers to write to clients who were advised to transfer or opt out of an occupational pension scheme.

The IFA Association, the body bringing the action, claims that contacting clients in this way invites them to sue the adviser, thereby invalidating the advisers' professional indemnity insurance. Garry Heath, chief executive of the association, said that at least 250,000 investors could be caught up in the court action. He added: "No other profession would be ordered, as we have, to write to clients effectively inviting them to sue us for compensation."

Last week, the High Court heard representations from the association and the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, which

initiated the proposals for compensating victims of personal pensions mis-selling.

If the IFA wins the case the SIB will have to devise different method of dealing with people who have been misled by the IFA, delaying even further the compensation process. The SIB has passed responsibility for overseeing the review of personal pensions mis-selling to the Personal Investment Authority, headed by Colette Bowe.



Bowe: overseeing review

Favourites emerge for Dalgety auction

By MARTIN WALLER

DALGETY has identified two strong front-runners for the planned sale of its Golden Wonder crisps and Home-ride cooking ingredients businesses, put on the auction block earlier this year at an expected price of more than £300 million.

A board meeting last week heard that the initial approaches had been narrowed down to a pair of Japanese and Italian snack businesses that are known to have strong ambitions to expand into Europe.

The two are Unichip of Italy, owner of the Highlander crisp producer as well as a 5 per cent stake in troubled Bensons Crisps, and Nissin, a huge Japanese flour miller that has a plant making pot noodles in The Netherlands. Dalgety is known to be keen to sell the businesses in a single block. But it is thought the Japanese are particularly keen on its pot noodles, while Unichip wants the famous Golden Wonder name. Various other possible buyers are also circling around, which raises

the possibility that any purchaser may be left with the task of breaking up the Dalgety operations into several individual sales. United Biscuits has looked at the crisps business, the City believes, while PepsiCo of America is eyeing Golden Wonder's other snack brands. However, such deals could raise problems of competition.

The crisps market has been severely hit by over-capacity and a move to more upmarket, niche brands. One analyst described the Dalgety crisps operation as "a bit of a nightmare", although several of the non-crisps brands are market leaders.

The forthcoming sale, likely to be completed this summer, is part of a continuing exchange of well-known brands among the big food manufacturers. Only last week Reckitt & Colman agreed the sale of its Colman mustard business to Unilever. Dalgety is selling the business in part to pay for its expansion in pet foods with the purchase of the Felix and Fido brands.

Sydney casino seeks UK high-rollers

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

UK institutional investors are being invited to place their bets Down Under for the \$960 million (£306.5 million) flotation of Sydney's first ever casino this month.

Sydney Harbour Casino, through Bain and Co, its adviser, has embarked on a series of presentations to UK institutions as part of a worldwide exercise to drum up support for the \$1.2 billion project.

The casino, which is being built in Darling Harbour, Sydney, has already attracted considerable interest locally in a country that boasts one of the highest

spends per head on gambling in the world. As one analyst said: "Australians take their gambling very seriously. Sydney has been crying out for a casino for a long time — most other cities in Australia have already got one."

About 115 million shares, accounting for a fifth of the company, are being clawed back from the original 24 investors in the project and will be offered to new institutional shareholders at a price expected to be about \$1.28 a share. Showboat, the American casino operator that led the original consortium, is expected to hold on to its 26 per cent share in the company.

The casino is due to open for business

in March 1998, and is hoping to attract about 26,000 punters every day with its 200 gaming tables and 1,500 slot machines. It is forecast to make profits of \$100 million in its first full year of operation.

In the meantime, a temporary casino is being constructed close by, which will be opening this September with 150 gaming tables. André Hilliou, the chief executive, said: "It is only a few months until the opening of Sydney's first casino, which we believe will become one of Australia's biggest tourist attractions."

The flotation prospectus should be issued this month, with the shares listed on the Australian stock exchange in June.

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